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FRIDAY APRIL 19 1996

THE TIMES

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SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

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Your 7-day guide to TV and radio

Judgment threatens security services

Traitor Blake can profit from memoir

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government reacted with astonishment yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that George Blake, the traitor who lives in Moscow, should be allowed to receive £90,000 in royalties from the sale of his memoirs.

The judgment by Sir Richard Scott, who headed the arms-for-Iraq inquiry, cast doubt on the Government's policy of binding members of the intelligence and security services to lifelong silence.

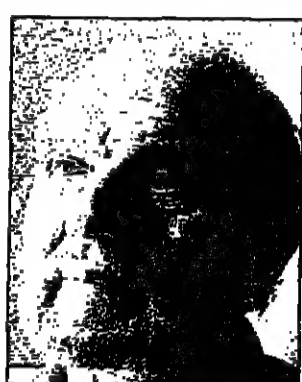
In giving judgment, Sir Richard, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division, said the Crown's insistence on a lifetime duty of fidelity to members of the intelligence and security service represented "an interference with rights of free expression".

Yesterday's ruling dismissed the case brought by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who had applied to recover the money from the sale of *No Other Choice*, written by Blake, the former Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officer who worked for the former Soviet KGB. The book, published by Jonathan Cape in 1991, sold 17,000 of the 19,000 copies printed.

The Government did not take legal action at the time of publication to stop its sale — as it tried and failed to do with *Spycatcher*, written by Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

The Attorney-General did threaten legal action against Jonathan Cape, however, unless it undertook not to send royalties to Blake. The publisher agreed but the Government took legal action to recover profits from the book.

Reacting to yesterday's reserved judgment in favour of Blake and Jonathan Cape, which did not defend the action, Michael Heseltine, the



Blake: treachery cost lives of British agents

Deputy Prime Minister, said he felt "depressing shock".

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World At One*, he said: "I just find the decision depressing. Here is a guy who took advantage of his privileged position in the intelligence services to sell out British interests."

Blake, he said, was a convicted traitor. He had sent people to their death who were acting on behalf of Britain's interests and he was making a profit out of it. "I think, as a layman, people will be bemused and depressed that such a decision could be taken," he said.

He said the judgment would be studied carefully before a decision was made whether to appeal. A Cabinet Office official said the judgment raised important issues about the "ability of a member of the intelligence agencies who was found guilty of gross betrayal of his country, to profit from his wrongdoing."

Lifelong confidentiality imposed on former members of MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, the Government's signals intelligence centre, became a contractual obligation in 1987, after the publication of

Spycatcher, which featured allegations about MI5 activities in the 1950s and 1960s. The obligation was enshrined in the Intelligence Services Act 1994. Sir Richard also presided in the *Spycatcher* case.

Blake, now 73 and living in relative poverty in a flat in Moscow, was responsible for the deaths of several British agents after he became a Russian spy, following his capture by North Koreans and conversion to communism.

The High Court judgment was passed on to Blake by his son Misha, who said his father was pleased.

Under the law, no criminal is allowed to profit from his crime while serving his sentence, although his family is entitled to sell his story. This happened recently in the Rosemary West case.

Despite the judgment, there seemed little likelihood that Blake would receive all the royalties. So far he has been paid about £35,000 as an advance. However, Benedict Birnberg, his solicitor, said the cash had been shared between his three sons in Britain and Misha, his son by his second wife, whom Blake married after escaping to Moscow from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966.

A spokeswoman for Jonathan Cape said £40,000 of the remaining £90,000 would be deducted for legal expenses. There are no plans to reprint the book. Mr Birnberg has also lodged a claim for his legal expenses over the past two years.

While accepting the right of the Government to stop confidential information from being disclosed, Sir Richard said: "The Crown have not, in my judgment, either pleaded or established by evidence any

Continued on page 2, col 6



Ballerina Russell: "stunned" at political association. Milliner Treacy: success "nothing to do with the Government"

Tory achievers? Not us say Look! stars

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Look!, the Tories' breezy good news tabloid designed to trumpet the truth about the Government's achievements, was looking distinctly frayed at the edges last night only 24 hours after its launch.

People depicted in the 16-page newspaper as examples of success because of the Government rushed yesterday to dissociate themselves from the claim. Others said they would vote anything but Tory.

Darcy Russell, 27, principal ballerina at the Royal Ballet, who decorated the front page, was "one of the success stories of the Government's music and ballet scheme". In fact, her means-tested grant to attend the Royal Ballet School was withdrawn after a year at the age of 14.

Her father, a west London dentist, paid for the next three. "She is stunned to discover that she has been associated with any political party," a friend said yesterday.

Scunthorpe United football club, which according to *Look!* could afford to move to a new ground because of government changes in the football betting levy and grants in 1990, was turned down for help. "They could not have got it more wrong. We moved in 1988," said Don Rowing, the club executive.

"Grants were given to football clubs after the Taylor



Sellars: "I certainly would not vote Conservative". Scunthorpe turned down



report into the Hillsborough disaster to build all-seater stadiums. As we had already built one we applied retrospectively. We were turned down."

Shearer Sellars, a Swindon businessman hailed as a success because of Tory economic policies, said: "The Government's record is so bad I certainly could not vote Conservative. They don't deserve it."

Mr Sellars, the founder of

Boxes and Packaging, said: "My bank manager asked me to do the interview. I never knew it was for the Tories. It's like agreeing to play in a football match and then discovering that the referee is biased. I was misquoted and misrepresented."

Milliner Phillip Treacy was surprised to have been labelled a success story in a double-page spread on the 2, col 3

Continued on page 2, col 3

Israelis issue red alert to citizens abroad

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL last night issued a red alert to all Jewish citizens travelling abroad and Jewish institutions overseas to be on guard for expected revenge attacks after Thursday's massacre of Arabs sheltering at a United Nations base in southern Lebanon.

In an unprecedented move, all Israelis leaving the country were handed leaflets advising them how to avoid attack.

The warning came as the world's most powerful leaders, meeting at the Moscow summit, threw their weight behind diplomatic efforts to halt the continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

John Major called for a ceasefire as did President Yeltsin who dispatched Yegor Primakov, the Foreign Minister, to the Levant to help to mediate an end to the fighting. He followed Washington's top Middle East expert, Dennis Ross.

Israeli sources said that any revenge attack would result in unspecified "drastic" retaliation, which some Western diplomats believe could be a pre-emptive strike at Iran.

Israel's secret service, Mossad, is taking seriously a broadcast last Sunday on Hezbollah's al-Manar television, which showed about 70 suicide bombers pledging to target Israel and the United States. Many senior Israeli officials believe such a spectacular attack is inevitable.

Following the Moscow summit's call for a ceasefire, the American, Russian, French and Italian Foreign Ministers will meet in the Syrian capital, Damascus, today, while in Lebanon, UN officials were clearing up the carnage as the air reverberated to the sound of Israeli shells.

Tension between Israel and Iran was exacerbated by reports that the mullahs had ordered Hezbollah to continue their struggle against Israel and "nests of Zionism".

Troops grieve, pages 12, 13
Letters, page 21

Referee at fault

A rugby referee failed in his duty to a teenager injured in a match, a judge ruled ... Page 3

The Times on the Internet
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Brown tackles school 'elite'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A SHAKEUP of Britain's £9 billion higher and further education system to make it relevant to the masses rather than an elite was promised last night by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

A Labour government would end the problem of the 16-plus "national education lottery" which excludes millions from opportunities because their families cannot afford to keep them at school,

he said in Edinburgh. It will carry out a comprehensive review of all aspects of the funding of post-16 education, including grants, loans, fees, educational maintenance allowances and the use of tax reliefs. The ambitious aim is to prevent anyone being denied post-16 education because of poverty.

And, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, child benefit paid to 1.1 million young people aged 16, 17 and 18 will end, with the projected £700 million saving being transferred into training.

Even before Mr Brown delivered the John Smith memorial lecture at Edinburgh University the child benefit plan had come under attack. The Child Poverty Action Group condemned the proposal to scrap the £10.40 a week payment to the mothers of children who stay on at school, asking how if the benefit was removed were people's basic needs to be met. What was needed was a wide-ranging

Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article, page 21

Botham to coach would-be heirs

By ALAN LEE

IAN BOTHAM, who this week failed in his attempt to become an England cricket selector, will, after all, be offered a role with the Test team. The most charismatic player of the past 20 years is likely to be asked to take on specific coaching duties before this summer's matches against India and Pakistan.

Although there is a general sense of relief in high places that Botham and his restless nature were not miscast on the

selection panel, it is also agreed that his talents should not be wasted. David Lloyd, the new England coach, and Michael Atherton, the captain, are keen to enlist him.

His job, I understand, could involve individual coaching of the players whose styles most closely resemble his own — Dominic Cork and Darren Gough. Both admit to having idolised him.

The approval of Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and a man frequently criticised by Botham, will be

sought this weekend but may not be strictly necessary.

Botham, 40, has done himself few favours by apparently reacting bitterly to his rejection as a selector, going so far as to accuse the Test and County Cricket Board of a "dirty tricks campaign".

Yesterday, however, he denied the remarks attributed to him in a tabloid newspaper and repeated his enthusiasm. "They only have to ring me," he said.

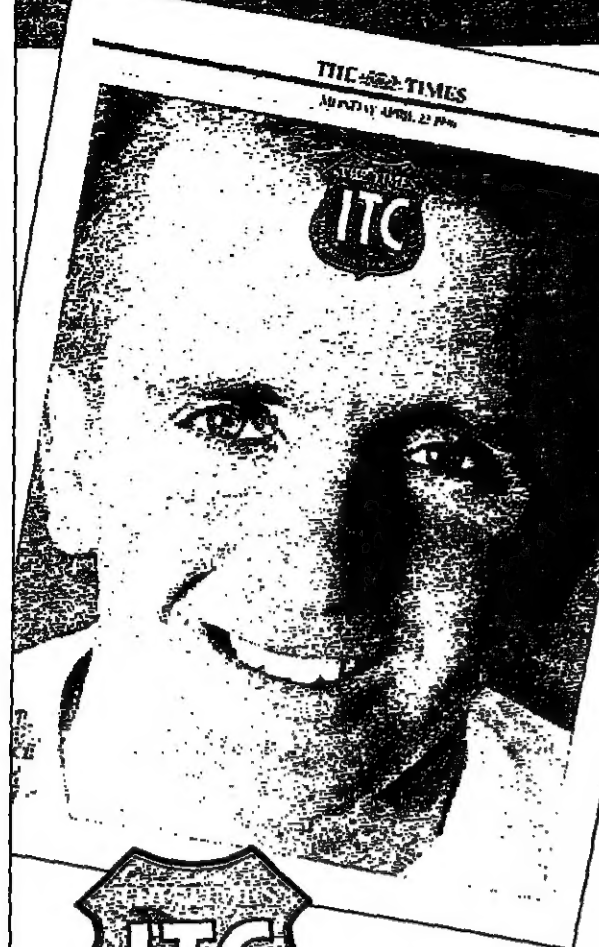
Atherton optimism, page 48

Botham: arriving at a reception this week

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LANGUAGE TAPES

Belgium 'unsafe', says asylum judge

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE asylum seekers were saved from deportation yesterday after a judge ruled that Belgium was not a safe country for them to be sent to.

Under government policy, any asylum seeker who travels through Belgium on the way to Britain should be sent back there if an application fails, since refugee status can then be sought in Belgium without any danger.

But Mr Justice Hidden granted

orders to a refugee from Togo, an Iraqi and three Turkish Kurds, quashing decisions by immigration appeal adjudicators refusing asylum. The judge said he was unable to agree that Belgium was definitely safe as there were "unresolved, conflicting opinions" on whether its eight-day limit for asylum claims was counted from the date of first entry or the date of return. This could mean refugees faced being deported to countries where they feared persecution.

The ruling was one of two, cases

yesterday which immigration lawyers forecast could have ramifications for other asylum seekers. In the second case, Mr Justice Dyson quashed deportation orders against two Tamils who had suffered torture from Sri Lankan security forces.

The two were about to be deported to Sri Lanka because the Home Office said there was no longer any threat to Tamils from the Government. But fresh fighting began earlier this year.

The men made a new application which the Home Office rejected as a

repeat of their original application. The judge said the new circumstances meant that the applications were fresh and should have been taken as new.

Last night the Home Office played down the significance of the two cases but said both judgments would be studied. Officials said the Belgian case rested on a decision by adjudicators. In the second case, the judge said that no blame should be aimed at the Home Office because officials were acting on existing case law when they took their decision.

Labour may give
16-year-olds cash
to stay at schoolBy DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PIONEERING scheme that greatly increased the number of 16-year-olds staying on at school by giving them £300 grants is being explored by Labour as a way of using child benefit savings to raise education standards.

Up to 40 per cent of pupils disappeared from education and training systems in Cardiff after reaching the statutory school leaving age until the means-tested grants were introduced by South Glamorgan County Council.

Hundreds of extra teenagers were persuaded to stay on at school or college after the initiative to motivate youngsters was introduced by the council in September 1994, one of a group of local authorities analysed by Labour as a test-bed for education policies.

As well as paying grants, eight schools began to offer high-quality vocational courses, run by a Cardiff further education college, and mentors from industry were

appointed to advise students taking up the grants. Fitzalan High School, in inner-city Cardiff, saw the numbers staying on after 16 rise from 146 in 1993-94 to 225 in 1995-96 after the grant was introduced.

Tom Davies, director of education for Cardiff council, which took over part of the South Glamorgan area after local government reorganisation, said staying-on rates

improved dramatically and the new council wanted to extend the scheme.

"Students on family income support or having free school meals were targeted during their year at school and grants offered to them," he added.

The council, which was part of a group of authorities studied by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, found £200,000 to fund the scheme.

St David's Sixth-Form College in Cardiff has more than a hundred students - about one in eight - who receive the grant. Dominic Bryon, its principal, said: "We have a number of students from more difficult environments and as a marginal influence this is very significant."

"It can tip the balance towards staying on in education. I know of individual cases where it has made a big difference, for example in households where both parents are unemployed or where there is a big problem of income. The staying-on rates have improved considerably."

Labour education strategy

Continued from page 1
strategy to tackle the cause of poverty and effects - not redistribution of money between vulnerable groups.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, denounced the plan as "lightweight nonsense". Mr Brown was going round and round to satisfy the various lobbies in the Labour and trade union movement, he said. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said Labour would be taking £500 a year out of the pockets of a family with a 16-year-old child in education. Diane Abbott,

Labour National Executive Committee member and Left-winger, said: "It makes no sense to shuffle money from one set of poor people to another because we are too frightened to raise taxes for the better-off." For the Liberal Democrats, Liz Lynne said abolition of child benefit would reduce opportunities for many 16-year-olds.

Mr Brown said that Labour wanted to end the position where young people got their chance at 16 and either entered higher education or lost out and got no further

education and training. "In place of the old style, one-off equality of opportunity - the one strike and you are out opportunity - we need lifetime, recurrent, permanent opportunities: second, third, fourth and fifth chances that up the prospect of opportunities at any stage - at any stage, at any time and for any study. The current system of post-school funding was built for the days of an elite and must now change for the world of mass education."

Leading article, page 21

Tory achievers? Not us say people in Look!

Continued from page 1
emergence of the British fashion industry - thanks to the support of Michael Heseltine. "It's nothing to do with the Government if I am successful," he said yesterday.

"Michael Heseltine's support is a public relations stunt. There is great creativity in British fashion but no money around for people to buy our designs. We have to sell them abroad."

Look! claims the relaxation in licens-

ing laws had led to a renaissance for the British pub. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Since 1979 the amount of beer sold in pubs has fallen by 25 per cent and about 5,000 pubs have closed." Under the Tories "We are a nation of happy and sophisticated shopkeepers". The British Retail Consortium said: "In the last 15 years the number of retail units has fallen from 350,000 to 300,000."

Charles Lewington, the Tory party's director of communications, and architect of the publication, says he wrote the hapless victims saying: "The press is much criticised for misquoting people and giving misleading information. In the interests of good journalism and accuracy I am sending you a copy of the story in which you feature."

John Major declared Look! was being produced to "give the people the True facts about the economy, the True

facts behind that success story, and the True facts about the future."

Conservative Central Office said yesterday that 100,000 copies of the tabloid would still be distributed to party members this weekend. "We never suggested the people were paid-up Tories. They are success stories," it said.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, was gleeful. "The ballerina has done a pirouette and run a mile."

Man fined
£15,000 for
smuggling
to Iran

Terence Howe, 60, was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000 for smuggling aircraft and helicopter parts to Iranian government procurement agencies. He had admitted the offence at Winchester Crown Court.

His co-accused, David Harbridge, 58, an aircraft engineer, was fined £300. Equipment that included parts for three types of military helicopters and the fighter bomber were sent to Iran by an Isle of Wight company called British Harbridge and Marine Consultants, of which Howe was the sole proprietor.

New Tennant

The British model Stella Tennant, who is the granddaughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, has been selected by Chanel as its face for the autumn and winter collection. The French fashion house said the 22-year-old was "the perfect look for now".

Landlord guilty

A landlord accused of the manslaughter of Tracy Murphy, 19, a tenant who died from carbon monoxide poisoning, has changed his plea to guilty at Sheffield Crown Court. Thomas Beedie, of Cottingham, near Hull, will be sentenced on Monday.

Murder review

The Government rejected any change to the law on murder after a 14-month review prompted by the case of Private Lee Clegg. It had considered an intermediate sentence between murder and acquittal when a defendant killed in self-defence or to prevent crime.

Girl saves life

A British girl on holiday in southern India saved a man from drowning after he broke his neck diving into the sea. Jessica Richards, 10, from Shrewsbury, held Stewart Atwell's head above water before help arrived. Mr Atwell, a Bath University student, is in a stable condition.

Brothers detained

David and Paul Moon, brothers aged 20 and 16 from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, were ordered yesterday to be detained in a young offenders institution for eight and six years respectively for causing the death of a Emily Simms, 16, by running her over in a van after a party in Bromley.

Dunblane case

A pub manager charged with stealing £1,500 collected for the Dunblane fund and £3,500 from his licence, appeared in court. Patrick Southgate, 45, formerly of the Hope and Anchor in Poole, Dorset, was charged with stealing £1,500 from the fund and £3,500 from his licence. He was granted bail until May 3.

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07/11/2012

Judge blames the referee for young rugby player's paralysing injury

BY ADRIAN LEE,
JOHN GOODBODY
AND DAVID HANDS

A RUGBY referee was yesterday said by a judge to have failed in his duty to a 17-year-old player who broke his neck when a scrum collapsed. Ben Smoldon, now 21, had sued the official, Michael Nolan, for £1 million.

Mr Smoldon was a promising player aiming for a place in his county under-19 squad when he was paralysed from the shoulders down during a game between Sutton Coldfield and Burton-on-Trent Colts in October 1991. His solicitor, Terry Lee, said his client was "shocked with joy" by the result. The amount of damages will be set later.

Mr Smoldon had also sued an opposing forward who was accused of bringing down the scrum in which he was injured. Thomas Whitworth, now 22, was cleared of negligence.

Mr Justice Curtis said in the High Court the referee failed in his duty to the player and fell "below the level of reasonable competence". But "no responsible player and no responsible referee had anything to fear" from his ruling.

However, Edward Grayson, a barrister and author of *Sport and the Law*, said that the consequences of the judgment were "illimitable". It could open the floodgates for more legal actions.

"Refereeing a physical contact sport becomes a risky activity. It means that referees have got to observe the laws of the game meticulously and keep strict control, because otherwise they could be challenged in court."

The referee was backed by the Rugby Football Union, which is trying to recruit new referees. Steve Griffiths of the RFU said: "We are concerned about the consequences of the judgment, both for the playing and refereeing of the game."

Mr Smoldon, who the accident left with only slight



Nolan: failed to exercise reasonable care and skill

movement in his arms, will use the damages he receives to adapt his home in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, to give him more independence.

He said he would now concentrate on rebuilding his life. He is studying leisure management in Birmingham and sits his finals in June. "Unfortunately because of the case my studies have taken a back seat but I am going to make the most out of my life."

He is considering a career in accountancy or rugby administration. Despite his injury, he said: "I still love the game and enjoy watching it." He coaches Sutton Coldfield Colts, the team he was representing when he was hurt.

He added: "I do not want to discourage any player from playing rugby. I hope this case is one step towards making the game safer. I will continue to support the game for the rest of my life."

In his judgment Mr Justice Curtis said the referee failed to exercise "reasonable care and skill" to prevent the scrum collapsing or to instruct the players. There had been an abnormally high number of failed scrums — at least 20 — but Mr Nolan, 54, a member

of the Staffordshire Society of Referees, paid a lack of attention. Although Mr Smoldon accepted a degree of risk by playing rugby, he deserved protection from the referee.

The judge said the injury, one of several in the game, was foreseeable. He said the dangers of neck injuries, to young players in particular, were well known to referees. Where there was a known risk, "I see nothing objectionable in the law seeking to prevent and protect rugby players from unnecessary and potentially highly dangerous, if not lethal, aspects of the game by the imposition of a duty of care."

He emphasised that because the rules were different for juniors, nothing he said applied to senior or international rugby matches.

After the case Mr Nolan, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, who was covered by insurance, declined to comment.

Mr Grayson, president of the British Association for Sport and the Law, said that in the light of the judgment referees, umpires, sporting organisations and schools would have to make certain they were fully insured. "It is an inevitably significant judgment because the referee's responsibility to the laws of the game must always be subject to the overriding principle that the law of the land doesn't stop at the touchline."

A spokesman for Rugby League said: "This decision will have ramifications for all sport in the UK, however modest and humble. We are talking about the local squash club as well."

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the judgment would be viewed "with the deepest concern by everyone who undertakes to referee junior rugby". Much of the refereeing in schools was done "by whoever volunteers to pick up a whistle".

Rugby Union news, page 45



Ben Smoldon after his victory yesterday: "I'm going to make the most of my life"

Rapist escaped from open jail to attack again

BY JOANNA BALE

A JUDGE criticised the Prison Service yesterday for moving a rapist to an open jail from which he escaped to attack again.

Judge John Curran said a decision to send Stephen Mills to Leyhill open prison in Gloucestershire from Bristol jail, four years into a 12-year sentence for rape, was a matter of disquiet. Mills escaped and sexually assaulted a 37-year-old woman after tying her up, punching her in the face and threatening to kill her.

At Cardiff Crown Court yesterday, the judge remanded Mills, 29, for psychiatric reports and told him he was considering imprisoning him for life. The judge said: "It is a matter of disquiet that a man convicted of crimes of such gravity should be in an open prison with the consequences which followed. Mills is a real and continuing danger to women and I am considering passing an indeterminate sentence."

While on the run for 15 months from Leyhill, Mills used a false passport to travel around Italy, France and the United States. He returned to Britain and met a divorcee at a nightclub in Wales. They danced together for most of the evening. When he went back to her home Mills indecently assaulted her and threatened to kill her.

After he was convicted yesterday of the attack, the

woman joined the judge and police in condemning the decision to send Mills to the open prison. She said: "It was horrifying to think that I met a rapist on the run at a dance. He should never be free to attack women again. I thought my life was over."

Detective Inspector Bill Ware said: "This woman was lucky to get out of her ordeal alive. This man is very dangerous and should never be allowed near women again. It's crazy for a man like that to be sent to an open prison where he can just walk out."

The court was told that Mills had earlier served a 21-month sentence passed at Taunton Crown Court after attacking a 21-year-old woman in her flat at Yeovil while armed with a sheath knife. He was jailed for 12 years by Truro Crown Court in Cornwall for rape and a serious sexual assault after breaking into a house in Bude three days before Christmas 1988.

Meirion Davies, for the prosecution, told the judge: "The prison authorities say the system has now been changed and it is now unlikely that a man like this would end up in an open prison."

The Home Office said: "There have been lots of changes in risk assessment and things are far more stringent now. It is now unlikely that someone would be sent to an open prison so soon into their sentence."



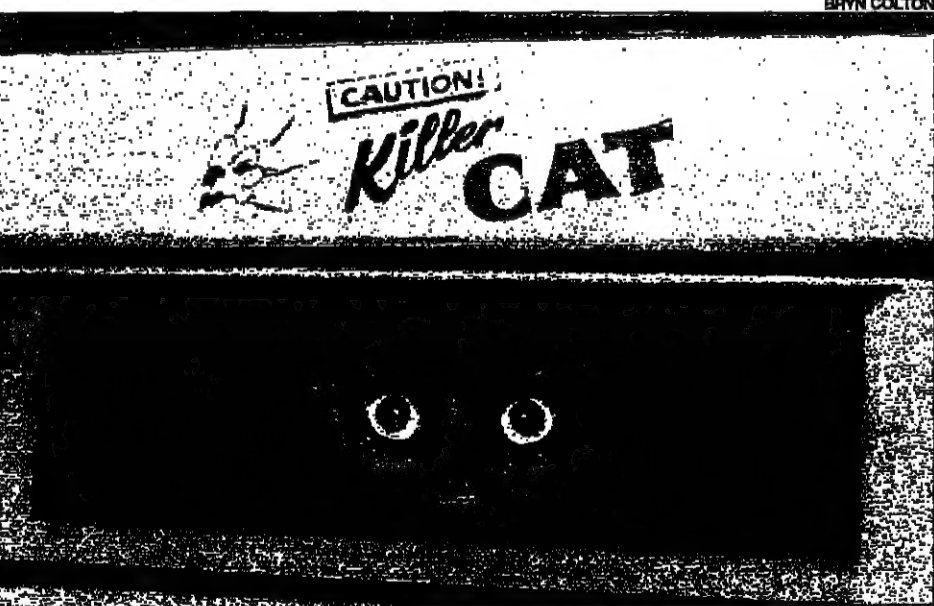
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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



Paper tiger: Gizmo waits for the next victim to reach through the letter box

Cat with a taste for blood puts postmen in a flap

BY A STAFF REPORTER

POSTMEN and paperboys in a quiet market town are living in fear — of a black cat called Gizmo that has savaged the fingers of six postmen pushing letters through the front door in the past year.

Two paperboys, two parcel courier men and several locals delivering junk mail and leaflets have also been scratched and cut by Gizmo's razor-sharp teeth and claws.

Royal Mail chiefs have now threatened to stop delivering letters to Gizmo's owners, Mick and Daphne Smith-Howell, unless they tame their two-year-old pet. The stern warning was prompted by Gizmo's latest attack on a relief postman who was unaware of the danger lurking behind the front door in Beccles, Suffolk.

The victim, who was on Gizmo's round for the first time, was left with scratched and bleeding fingers. Mr Smith-Howell, 42, a builder, and his wife believe Gizmo is particularly vicious when they are out of their three-bedroom, end-terrace house.

Gizmo, named after a friendly creature in the film *Gremlins*, is no longer allowed out of the house in case it attacks a child. Mr Smith-Howell said: "She usu-



Gizmo: stern warning

ally sits on the bottom step of the stairs and as soon as she sees anyone approaching the door she's ready to pounce. She moves swiftly and silently so people do not realise she is there until she has grabbed their fingers.

"Unfortunately she is very territorial and likes to guard the house. She hangs on to the window seal under the letterbox and tries to pull the letters through, but I don't think she means to hurt anyone."

After the first two attacks, Mr Smith-Howell put up the sign "Caution! Killer cat" on the front door, but two couriers from the White Arrow Express delivery firm were still scratched on consecutive days when they tried to push parcel delivery notes through the door. Bob Martin, manager of White Arrow's Norwich depot, telephoned to ask if

parcels could be left with a neighbour in future. He said: "There is one certain way to sort out this cat and that is strangling it."

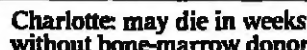
Mr Smith-Howell said: "We are still trying to decide what to do, but we do not want to use a letterbox cage in case Gizmo gets her claws caught and hurts herself. It is a shame she keeps attacking postmen because she is really a very nice, loving cat. If people come into our house she goes up and sniffs them and purrs — although she sometimes hisses as well."

Paul Harris, a Royal Mail Anglia spokesman, said: "A number of our postmen have been hurt and we do not consider these attacks a laughing matter. A cage over the letterbox does not seem an unreasonable request and would easily sort out the problem. We can stop delivering to an address if we feel our staff are in danger. Most animal attacks involve dogs, but others have involved cats, geese and even a turkey."

Mr Harris said there were almost 6,000 attacks by animals on Britain's 80,000 postmen and women last year — an increase of a third on the 4,105 reported in 1977.

Training your pet, Weekend, page 9

THE TIMES SAIL REPA
Bache
is left
widow



Ellen Schroder, 38, and her husband Tim, 44, of the wealthy banking family, have been tested along with their near relations, but did not match her bone-marrow type. A search through 2.5 million potential donors on registers in America, Australia

"Charlotte has rare bone marrow but I believe there must be a donor out there somewhere," said Mrs Schroder, who gave up her job as an investment banker at Kleinwort Benson to care for her daughter, and has been raising funds for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust register.

With support from the actor Bob Hoskins, a neighbour and friend in Hampstead, north London, the Schroders are launching the Campaign Char-

Mrs Schroder said: "It's so difficult to think of life without

A sample of blood taken from baby Anna's umbilical cord (a

□ The walk-in clinics open next week are: Brent Cross Centre, Monday to Friday 12-8, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 11-5; Whiteleys Centre, Bayswater, Thursday to Sunday 12-4; St Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, Monday to Friday 12-3; St James Church, Piccadilly, Monday to Friday 12-3. Outside London, call 0800 717717 to find out how to be tested.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Mr Lawrence is the latest patient to be fitted with a permanent replacement for his natural heart in the search for alternatives to human heart transplants. He is expected to be fit enough to go

Mr Lawrence, a non-smoker from Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is the second patient to receive an artificial heart at the John Radcliffe. The first, Abel Goodman, a London film producer aged 65, died last

Sitting beside his wife Jean, with whom he celebrated his 42nd wedding anniversary yesterday, he said: "I was determined to go ahead. My health was deteriorating, I was getting breathless and I couldn't sleep. I could only walk a few hundred yards and I'd had it. I wasn't frightened of the operation. I am just fortunate to have been offered this wonderful chance."

Mrs Lawrence, holding her

Steven Westaby, the consultant cardiac surgeon, paid tribute to Mr Lawrence's courage and said he was expected to go home next week. He said

TUNTER

October, claiming that there was an increased risk of thrombosis among women taking the newer Pills. The announcement 'caused some women to stop taking the Pills'.

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BY NICK NUTTALL

The Department of Health issued a public alert last October, claiming that there was an increased risk of thrombosis among women taking the newer Pills. The announcement 'caused some women to stop taking the Pill

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DRINKING tea can protect against stroke, a study in The Netherlands has shown. In a 15-year survey of more than 550 men, those who drank the most tea reduced their risk of stroke by two thirds compared with those who drank the least.

The data come from a long-term dietary analysis of a

During that period, there were 42 strokes among 552 men enrolled in the study. An analysis of the first 15 years has been published in *Archives of Internal Medicine*

Earlier studies have shown that flavonoids reduced the risk of heart disease. This is the first to show a protective effect against stroke.

"Here for the first time, I think we have an artificial heart suitable for all ages. The most exciting thing for me is that it can be used in children and there is one the size of a pencil that can be used for babies."



Heart patient Ralph L.

Lawrence, Stephen Westaby and




Jean Lawrence yesterday

Health Organisation, might have found a small increase in risk of thrombosis. Doctors believing the new Pills were safer, might have been less rigorous in assessing the risk. The 'Europearl' agency said it was calling for more research.

1. *What is the purpose of the study?*
 2. *What are the research objectives?*
 3. *What is the research methodology?*
 4. *What are the results of the study?*
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Victoria Calder was tried twice
Professor Lloyd, who is now 6

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SWAN HELLENIC

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Bachelor farmer is left £10m by widowed aunt

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RECLUSIVE farmer has been left almost £10 million by the aunt who brought him up, Richard Oatley, 59, said: "I suppose it's a bit like winning the Lottery, but I'll still carry on with the farm — and I might even still play the Lottery once in a while."

Mr Oatley, a bachelor, inherits £9,998,787 from Ida Fussell, the widow of a brewery owner, who died in October, aged 88. She married Percy Fussell for 21 years and the couple had looked after Mr Oatley since he was seven. He still lives in the same house. All Mr Oatley would say of his parents was that they had died within the past 25 years and that he did not know why he was brought up by the Fussells.

Most of the legacy is in stocks and shares. Mr Oatley, of Rode, Somerset, said: "I've had this farm for 30 years now. I don't feel like a millionaire. If I wake up in the morning and it's fine, I feel good, and if it's not I don't. That will never change. I couldn't walk away and leave the animals. They need to be cared for and looked after — there's no one else to do it."

"It's early days, but I expect I will leave all the stocks and



Ida Fussell: married founder of brewery

shares as I don't really know much about that. Ida died after she failed to recover from a hip-replacement operation. I miss her dearly. I loved her an awful lot."

A villager said: "I've lived here for the last 30 years and I don't think I've spoken more than a dozen words to him in that time. I can't see this changing him. He's a very quiet, unassuming man. He keeps himself to himself and works very hard on his farm."

Mr Oatley employs one part-time worker to help him to fatten calves for sale. He said that the BSE scare had made life hard for him but he

believed the situation was improving. His house, in the centre of the village, is a few yards from the derelict brewery. The farm is centred on three buildings on the edge of the village. Mr Oatley said that he would not change his D-registered Ford Sapphire.

The Fussell commercial empire was founded in 1744 as toolmaking and iron-smelting businesses in Frome, Wiltshire. It later diversified into garden furniture and brewing. Mr Fussell, who died in 1964, set up the brewery in Rode with his brothers Henry and Reginald, shortly before the First World War. Mr Oatley said: "I went to live with my aunt and uncle when I was seven and after I left school I did an apprenticeship in farming."

The brewery was recently sold to Bass. Relatives of Henry Fussell have received little of the business's profits. But his daughter, Barbara Wheeler, said the situation had been accepted for many years by her side of the family. "It's just one of those things. Although Ida's name was Fussell she only had maternal connections with the family and we saw her rarely. She married my uncle after 21 years of being his housekeeper and looked after him well when he was ill."



Richard Oatley will go on running his farm. "I don't feel like a millionaire"

Nurses ask court to stop rapist's return to wards

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A LEGAL challenge has been mounted by the Royal College of Nursing to stop a convicted rapist from returning to the wards as a mental health nurse.

Yuen How Choy, who was convicted of raping a former patient in 1983 when he posed as a community psychiatric nurse to gain entry to her home, was restored last month to the professional register by the United Kingdom Central Council, the regulatory body for nurses.

Mr Choy, 50, a father of two, was given two years' imprisonment suspended for 12 months and struck off the register in 1986. In 1972 he received two years' probation for administering a sedative to a patient in order to have sex with her.

The Royal College of Nursing, which says it has been inundated with complaints from nurses, is to seek a judicial review of the decision by the UKCC to reinstate him. The college said: "We believe that it is against the public interest for this nurse to be restored to the register because it is absolutely vital that patients can have complete confidence in the nursing profession. In this case it is very clear that the nurse totally abused his position and betrayed his trust."

Mr Choy, who was a staff nurse for Brighton Health

Authority when he raped a former in-patient at a psychiatric hospital where he had previously worked, has been employed as a care assistant on an occasional shift basis since last October at the Forest Lodge nursing home near Uckfield, East Sussex. He did not need to be on the nursing register for that post, but his subsequent reinstatement means he can now apply for work as a qualified nurse.

Mr Choy's successful application for reinstatement, in March, came nine months after a previous application was rejected.

Carol Dille, nursing director at Forest Lodge, said: "This nurse has been on the panel of care assistants for the past five months and, when working with us, he has carried out his work with care and professionalism."

East Sussex Health Authority, which inspects and registers Forest Lodge, a home for elderly and mentally ill patients, knew of Mr Choy's record and employment, and established that there was no bar to his employment as a care assistant.

The college said: "This home has made a judgment that this man was trustworthy. We disagree." It expects the case, applying for a judicial review, to go before a High Court judge by the end of the month.

Biologist cleared of trying to kill her former lover

FROM JOHN CAMPBELL IN CHRISTCHURCH

A WOMAN accused of poisoning her former lover, the world-renowned British botanist Professor David Lloyd, has been cleared by a jury in New Zealand of attempted murder.

Professor Lloyd was admitted to hospital with a mysterious illness in December 1992. Since then the "Poison professor case" has held New Zealand in thrall. Yesterday it came to a sensational end in Christchurch as, for the first time in New Zealand history, a television network was allowed to broadcast live the announcement of a not guilty verdict.

Victoria Calder, 46, a biologist, was charged with attempted murder and poisoning. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The second trial lasted seven weeks. Throughout both trials the Crown's case against Miss Calder was based on the concept of a scorned woman wreaking revenge.

When Professor Lloyd left

her for a younger woman after a seven-year relationship, Miss Calder embarked on a campaign of retribution. She cut up his clothes, stuck an abusive banner to his car and spread dog excrement over his doorstep.

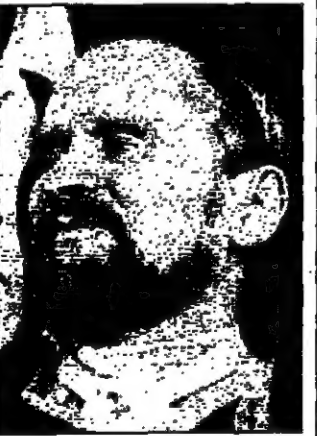
Then Professor Lloyd suddenly became so ill that doctors feared that he would die. The Crown claimed he had been poisoned by Miss Calder with acrylamide monomer which she obtained from work. Her lawyer, Judith Ablett-Kerr, insisted that Professor Lloyd had been the victim of a post-viral infection.

The Crown case faltered because having based its case on the claim that Miss Calder used acrylamide, it was unable to prove that the professor had suffered acrylamide poisoning.

Professor Lloyd is now blind and paralysed. He also suffers recurring bouts of pneumonia. Since his illness he has married the Canadian scientist for whom he left Miss Calder.



Victoria Calder was tried twice for trying to poison Professor Lloyd, who is now blind and paralysed



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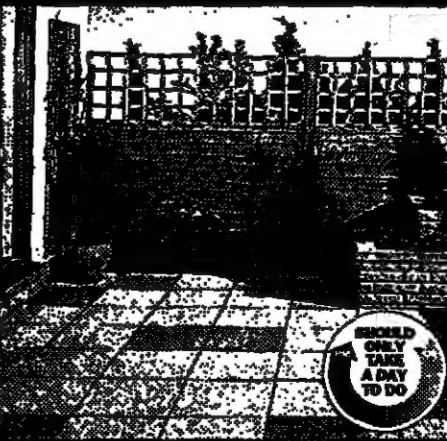
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Quiet



Now and then, the Queen



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Quiet 70th birthday for Queen of celebrations



Now and then: the Queen earlier this month and, below, on Coronation Day



BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN will celebrate her 70th birthday tomorrow with her immediate family and close friends. The Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York are conspicuously absent from the guest list.

It has been kept deliberately low-key at her own request. The century's longest-reigning monarch believes there have been enough celebrations in the recent past, and that there is too much unfinished business in the immediate future.

The day begins with a family visit to morning service at Sandringham, and ends with an intimate dinner at Windsor Castle to be attended by immediate relatives including Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret. The Duke of York will be away on a naval exercise, and the workaholic Princess Royal will be at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards and dinner in London.

This birthday contrasts with her 60th, which was marked by a musical gala at the Royal Opera House, 6,000 schoolchildren singing outside Buckingham Palace, and a summer ball at Windsor for 700 guests.

There may be other and better times to come when the Queen will feel more inclined to let the nation share in celebrating the milestones of her life and reign. There is no official stamp from the Royal Mail, although there have been commemorative issues from the Falkland Islands, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the British Antarctic Territory, and Australia.

As always on the sovereign's birthday, there will be a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London and another of 41 guns in Hyde Park. Because the birthday falls this year on a Sunday, the guns are delayed until Monday.

The Queen believes that



The baby Elizabeth with her parents, then Duke and Duchess of York, and, aged 7, with her sister Margaret



On the day of her engagement to Prince Philip of Greece in 1947, and training for war transport duties



there has been a surfeit of celebrations recently, beginning with the 40th anniversary of her accession in 1952, proceeding through the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1994, and culminating in VE and VJ-Day commemorations last year, in which the Queen played a central part, drawing hundreds of thousands of onlookers to watch her Buckingham Palace balcony appearance flanked by her mother and

sister. She also feels that the time is not right to invite public adulation.

This week's granting of a decree nisi to the Duke of York may have saddened the Queen, but it will also have brought her a considerable degree of relief that one of her sons' failed marriages has been brought to a decent and tidy conclusion. The other remains unresolved. She feels strongly that it continues to erode the public's esteem of

the monarchy. When it is concluded, she may feel more like celebrating.

There will be no shortage of opportunity. Next year sees her golden wedding anniversary; the year 2000 will ignite countless millennium parties; and 2002 will mark the golden jubilee of her reign. The last time Britain enjoyed such a jubilee was in 1887, when the bunting came out for Victoria.

The Queen is not without reasons for celebrating her

70th birthday. She is only the sixth reigning monarch since the Norman Conquest to reach such an age, along with George II, George III, William IV, Victoria and George V. She is already the sixth longest reigning monarch since 1066, beaten by Henry III (56 years), Edward III (50), George III (59), Victoria (63) and her namesake Elizabeth I, whose 44 years she now equals.

Leading article, page 21

MILESTONES ALONG THE ROAD TO BECOMING HEAD OF 'OUR GREAT IMPERIAL FAMILY'

THE Queen was born at 2.40am on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, home of her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore.

□ She is the fortieth monarch since William the Conqueror.
□ She was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary at the Buckingham Palace chapel on May 29, 1926.
□ At birth, she stood third in line to the throne after Edward, Prince of

Wales (later Edward VIII) and her father, the Duke of York, who became George VI.

□ The family moved into Buckingham Palace on February 15, 1937.

□ She spent most of the war years at Windsor Castle and made her first radio broadcast on October 13, 1940, at the age of 14, on *Children's Hour*.

□ At the age of 18, in February 1945, she joined the Auxiliary Transport Service as Second Subaltern Eliza-

beth Windsor, qualifying later as a driver.

□ In 1939, she met her third cousin, Prince Philip of Greece, and by 1944, when she was still only 18, it was clear she was in love with him.

□ On her 21st birthday she said in a radio broadcast from Cape Town: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

□ She and Prince Philip were engaged on July 10, 1947, and married on November 20.

□ Their first child, Charles, was born in 1948, followed by Anne in 1950, Andrew in 1960 and Edward in 1964.

□ Early in the morning of February 6, 1952, the King died.

□ Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen on February 8 and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

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Chestnut holds key to crunch factor

By Nick Nuttall

THE peculiar British penchant for overcooking vegetables could soon be studied by scientists investigating the secrets of an oriental vegetable.

They believe the ingredient that keeps water chestnuts firm and crunchy, even after overcooking, could be bred into other vegetables, protecting them from the worst excesses of the British housewife.

More importantly, it might be possible to engineer vegetables genetically so that they produce the crunchy chestnut factor, even after being processed and frozen, and stop fruit turning soft and mushy during ripening.

The texture of fruits and vegetables is influenced by different types of chemicals and the way they bond or "glue" together cell walls. During cooking or ripening these bonds, called pectic polysaccharides, are broken down and dissolve.

The Chinese water chestnut, which is actually the core of an aquatic sedge, survives intact even after hours in a pan or being battered by the canning process because of a variety of chemicals called ferulic acids. In grasses, they form powerful bonds between cells which are heat-resistant.

The research has been led by Keith Waldron and a team at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. Dr Waldron said: "We have now found that approximately 1 per cent of the cell wall of the Chinese water chestnut consists of ferulic acid, which is exceptionally high." Forty per cent of this is in a form which makes bonds that are adept at surviving heating.

The researchers now plan to screen different varieties of common vegetables to discover which have the highest levels of the crunch chemicals.

Food, Weekend, page 3

Tale of the Belvoir urns highlights rise in art crime

By Dalva Alberg, Arts Correspondent

TWO Italian 18th-century urns stolen from the Duke of Rutland's home, Belvoir Castle, were returned to him yesterday after Nottinghamshire police recovered them among a hoard of stolen statuary.

The duke is fortunate to have been reunited with his property. Few owners of historic properties have been so lucky: of about 1,000 items stolen during the past five years, only 78 objects were recovered, according to the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft.

A survey by the council found that since 1990 176 burglaries and attempted break-ins were reported by 150 privately owned stately homes that are open to the public. Belvoir Castle, near Grantham, with its paintings by Holbein, Gainsborough and Van Dyck, is among those open to the public. Sir Thomas Ingilby, of Ripley Castle in North Yorkshire, who co-founded the council, said that no more than 13 houses reported any arrests.

Sir Thomas explained that the survey is yet to be topped up with figures from the National Trust and public galleries. "The number of

incidents is quite frightening." Such is the interest in stately homes and their contents that Country Life has become one of the magazines most favoured by criminals, according to police sources. The professionals know exactly what they are looking for; a number are known to have become experts through evening art classes and Open University courses.

The Belvoir Castle urns were found in the outbuilding of a property near Mansfield. Two men are being interviewed by the police. Officers joined the duke yesterday to watch the lead urns being returned to their plinths, which have been rebuilt and fitted with security devices.

The duke said: "The police have done a marvellous job in tracking them down." The Council for the Prevention of Art Theft is calling for stronger legal protection and intends to campaign for stiffer penalties for anyone arrested in possession of items that are more than 100 years old and owned by a national gallery or stately home. At the moment, the law treats art theft like any domestic theft of a video or television. Yet, if a Canaletto was stolen, Sir Thomas said,

the nation lost part of its heritage.

The council is also pressing for a "code of due diligence" to ensure that every conceivable step has been taken so that fine art and antiques that have been reported stolen are not knowingly purchased.

"The vast majority - 93 per cent of the items stolen - are not being recovered by the owners, yet they must be out there somewhere in the market," Sir Thomas said. "Reports of items being identified and returned by dealers are so few as to be exceptional. If anything proves a need for an effective 'code of due diligence' to be introduced in a practicable manner, these shameful figures do."

Burglars are going to extraordinary lengths to steal what they want. Magnifying glasses and silver hallmarks are being found at break-ins. In a spectacular raid on Houghton Hall in Norfolk, thieves constructed a scaffold tower to get into the first-floor window.

Garden statuary is proving particularly popular: wheelbarrows, trolleys and lorries with hydraulic hoists are used to make off with even the heaviest pieces.



The Duke of Rutland with one of the recovered urns yesterday. Few of his fellow stately home owners have been lucky enough to see their stolen artworks again

Iran 'sorry' Rushdie is still alive

Iran's parliamentary Speaker said yesterday that Salman Rushdie had "insulted one billion Muslims and we are sorry he is still alive".

All Akbar Nategh-Nuri, an influential politician and leader of the regime's conservative faction, said in Tehran that, despite Western protests, Iran stood firm on the 1989 fatwa by Ayatollah Khomeini condemning Rushdie to death for blasphemy in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

MP in hospital

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, was in a stable condition after fainting during a radio interview. Mr Mallon, 59, was admitted to St Thomas's Hospital, south London, after collapsing on a Radio Ulster programme.

Sex trial delayed

The trial of a leading churchman accused of indecent assault on four women was adjourned until May 13 at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Professor Donald Macleod, 55, of the Free Church of Scotland, denies five charges.

Robbery charge

A 34-year-old man is expected to appear in court in Belfast today charged with armed robbery and unlawful imprisonment after the theft of more than £1 million from a Securicor van a week ago. Loyalist paramilitaries have been blamed.

£3m paintings

Two sea pictures measuring more than 4ft by 9ft fetched £3.1 million at Christie's in London, setting a record for Luca Carlevaris, founder of the 18th-century Venetian school of view-painting. The previous best price was £660,000 for a single picture.

Lottery serenade

The tenor José Carreras will serenade Anaëlle Turner with a Spanish love song tonight when she hosts the National Lottery draw for the last time. Ms Turner, 35, is leaving to join Carlton TV. Her place will be taken by Bob Monkhouse.

Sacked teachers win £24,000 in netball bugging case

By David Charter, Education Correspondent



Joy Kirby, left, and Wendy Easen yesterday after the tribunal ruled that they had been unfairly sacked

TWO teachers were unfairly sacked from an independent school after the owner bugged their conversations in a dispute over netball matches, an industrial tribunal decided yesterday.

Jeff Redmayne, owner of Musgrave Primary School in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was ordered to pay £24,000 compensation to the teachers, whom he recorded using a briefcase with a built-in tape recorder. He later dismissed Joy Kirby and Wendy Easen from the £800-a-term school for gross misconduct, accusing them of plotting against the head teacher.

Mr Redmayne claimed that they waged a campaign to discredit Pamela Wood, the head, by organising a netball club behind her back and by trying to blame her for not providing first aid cover at a match. The women's solicitors accused him of

bugging their confidential conversation with a "KGB-style device" with a microphone fitted into the briefcase lock. He then kept the tape secret for ten months and used it as evidence to sack them.

Speaking after the tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne, Mrs Easen said: "I am delighted with the result and am relieved it is all over. I was withdrawn from my classroom without saying goodbye to my children. I was told I was not allowed to go back to school except to clear my things away after lessons had finished. It was horrendous."

Mrs Kirby added: "Since I was dismissed from school it has been very difficult trying to live a normal life in the shadow of such accusations. We felt our every move was being watched. We could not do or say anything."

The tribunal chairman ruled: "Mr Redmayne decided the teachers were guilty of gross misconduct because he

believed they colluded to fabricate an account of a conversation with Mrs Wood to discredit her."

"He was not able to say what the collusion was about. I feel no reasonable employer would have come to this decision. Even if their accounts had not been accepted and Mrs Wood's had, this could not have amounted to gross misconduct. The teachers in no way contributed to their dismissal."

The tribunal awarded Mrs Easen £11,500 compensation and Mrs Kirby £12,500. After the teachers were sacked two other teachers resigned fearing their jobs were at risk. They are claiming constructive dismissal.

Mr Redmayne said: "The management of Musgrave School is obviously disappointed. The decisions to dismiss were not taken lightly and were made after a full and thorough investigation by the school's management committee."

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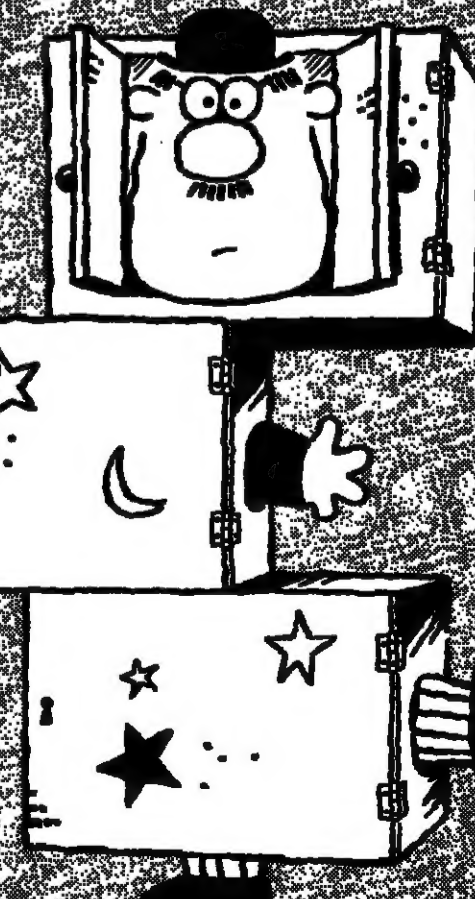
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Unthinkable tragedy that must never become unspeakable

THERE were two wars going on from 1939 to 1945. The one we know as the Second World War was between the Allies and Nazi Germany and its partners in the Axis powers. The other was the Nazi programme against Europe's Jews, and many of its gypsies.

Those of us who survived the genocide were not only unable to comprehend the tragedy, but were also traumatised by it. Although we tried to speak to an unbelieving world about it and the betrayal of every religious and civilising

principle, we soon fell silent. There was a great danger that that which was not spoken of would become unspeakable.

There was, of course, a great deal of literature on the subject. But it was the screening of *Holocaust*, the American-made fictional series by Gerald Green, and *Shoah*, the searing 11-hour documentary by Claude Lanzmann, that helped to break the silence of the survivors. Indeed, what happened was not only that survivors felt it important for them

to speak out, but that families, friends and neighbours were also prepared to listen. *Survivors of the Holocaust*, a production being broadcast today, is the latest, and I very much hope not the last, of visual testimonies about the Holocaust.

The programme is a combined production by Turner Original Productions and The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which was created by Steven Spielberg after his work on *Schindler's List*. It shows excerpts

from the more than 12,000 full-length video recordings of survivors' stories and testimonies. The men and women we meet in this documentary — briefly, but certainly memorably — speak of their individual stories and experiences. They are not "talking heads", but

rather people whose outpourings of hearts and souls leave unforgettable images.

There are so many who speak of the guilt of the survivor. It is a feeling I understand very well. How is it, we ask ourselves, that people who were so much better, more talented and learned than us — indeed, more noble — how is it that they perished and we survived? Is there any special point in our survival?

We know in our hearts that it was mainly chance, but we also

know that our survival puts a complicated and painful obligation on us. It is to testify about what we experienced and about the loss of so much decency and goodness and laughter, and also about the reality of evil. Perhaps this can give a little meaning, not only to our lives, but also to the lives of those who we knew and lost, and to their deaths.

I hope that this documentary will speak to the hearts and spirits of the new generations and help to immunise them against moral

neutrality and the temptation to be a bystander when evil is perpetrated. For me, the line with which I identify, and which is virtually a definition of this programme, is spoken by Andrew Newells. He says: "I want to forget and I cannot forget..."

Survivors of the Holocaust is on CNN International at 11am and again at 5pm.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn is the president of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain

Ghostbusters to haunt spirits that put chill in Chillingham

By Bill Frost

INVESTIGATORS of the paranormal are to spend four days and four nights at one of Britain's most haunted castles next week in the hope of confronting its long-term, non-paying guests and filming the evidence. Among the spiritual squatters are said to be hooded monks, a grieving wife seeking her dead husband, and a crying child.

The ghostbusters believe that as many as four generations of unquiet spirits are in residence at Chillingham Castle, near Wooler, Northumberland. The Ghost Research Foundation was called in by Sir Humphry Wakefield after his family and staff reported strange events.

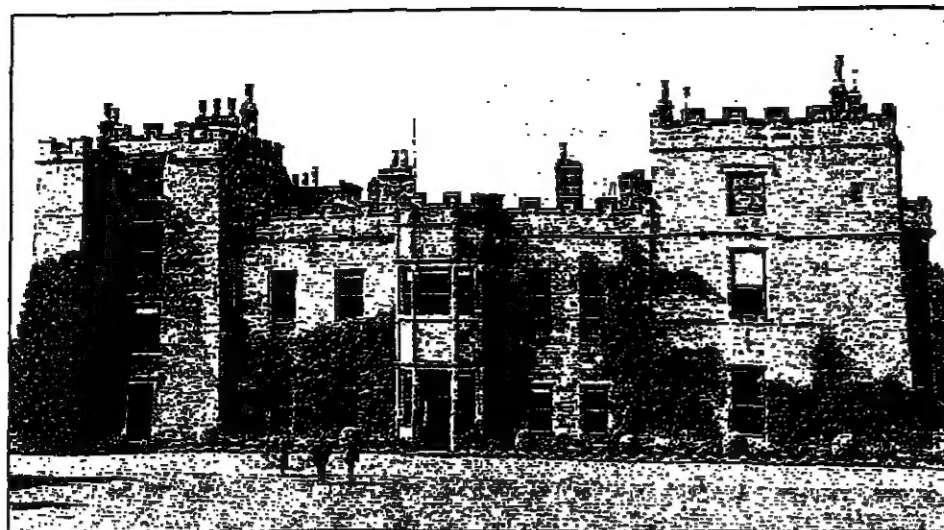
The 12th-century castle, built on the site of a 7th-century monastery, has the perfect pedigree for a haunting. Sir Humphry said: "My wife's family, the Greys, lived

here after taking it by storm in 1245 and the word is they slaughtered all the defenders. It is quite likely there are a number of ghosts in the castle who very unhappy about that. People who were captured during battles were brought here for torture and died, later coming back to haunt."

A nun who lives in one of the castle lodges has reported hearing a young girl crying. An exorcism was carried out but the sobbing continued.

Among the regular sightings is the ghost of Lady Mary Grey, emerging from a picture in the hall and climbing the stairs to search in vain for her husband. The family claims a distant connection with Lady Jane Grey, the young woman executed for claiming the throne in 1553.

Sir Humphry, 59, has seen no spirits but has sensed their presence. "I have had strange



Chillingham Castle: strange sights, odd sounds and a shiver down the spine

feelings — a sudden shiver going down my spine. I know there is something there because I keep sensing things which are not normal."

Guests who stay at the castle have spoken of inexplicable blue flashes from a fireplace. Records show regular sightings of a "blue boy" at the same spot in the 1900s. Sir Humphry's son Maximilian, 29, also claims a close encounter. "Max was at home one night when he thought he could hear a burglar coming up the stairs," his father said. "He got a gun and waited to confront him. The steps came into his room, went past him and out

through the wall. He never saw a thing. Until then he had always been a sceptic."

One guest staying in a particularly haunted wing apparently suffered a breakdown after a brush with what she described as a whirlwind and some form of spectral visitation. "She tried to sue us afterwards, claiming we were responsible for her mental condition," Sir Humphry said.

Jason Carr, of the Ghost Research Foundation, which is putting a six-man team into the castle on Monday, is no stranger to the spirit world, having confronted four in his time. He said: "We have been

in regular contact with Sir Humphry for the past two years, and we are quite confident there is something there. We use video cameras and monitoring equipment to see if there is anything strange in the atmosphere. We also have a member of the team who is psychic, so perhaps we can make contact."

Despite their unsettling activities, Sir Humphry has grown quite fond of his guests from beyond the grave, regarding them as good company. The investigation may do no harm to the castle's other role as a tourist haunt: it reopens to paying guests next month.

Bishops call for civil vows to state that marriage is for life

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ROMAN Catholic bishops called on the Government yesterday to strengthen civil marriage ceremonies by inserting statutory public vows that marriage is for life.

The bishops, who debated the Government's divorce law proposals this week, said: "To strengthen marriage it is not enough to reform divorce."

At present, couples who marry in register offices can if they wish take lifelong vows in public, but this is not a statutory requirement. The bishops want this altered in an attempt to strengthen marriage and want a more intensive programme of marriage preparation for all couples.

While couples who marry in church receive preparation from the clergy, nothing is laid on for those who marry in a civil ceremony. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, criticised the lack of preparation for marriage, which he said was in stark contrast to the complex process of divorce.

He compared marriage to entering the priesthood, and said he had spent four years preparing for ordination. Parenthood held far greater responsibilities, yet it was something people fell into, he said. He believed that all couples should be offered counselling before marriage and that register office cere-

monies should include openly stated lifetime commitments. The issue is of increasing concern to church leaders of all denominations as increasingly attractive venues are licensed for civil weddings. Cardinal Hume said: "The only thing you have to say is 'Mary, I do take thee to be my wife'. A registrar might make a few statements, but he may omit the fact that marriage is for life."

Cardinal Hume, speaking after the annual post-Easter Low Week meeting of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said: "We think we should make the entrance to marriage more difficult and not something that people just drift into. It cannot be beyond the wit of people to find something. Children should be taught at school and by their parents that marriage was for life."

Earlier this year, Cardinal Hume added his voice to the chorus of opposition to the Lord Chancellor's divorce Bill, and insisted that further thought be given to the issue of fault. He said the Bill did not underline the seriousness of breaching marriage vows.

The bishops, who had previously given their general support to the Bill, backed Cardinal Hume yesterday and welcomed the "new emphasis" on reconciliation that is emerging in the Bill. In a joint statement, they said: "We believe that with adequate time for reflection, and provision of professional help, many more marriages might be saved. We would welcome any measures which might be introduced to give couples time to assess the serious consequences of seeking a divorce." They said serious consideration should be given to strengthening the statutory framework within which civil marriages are made.

The bishops, who met in Westminster, said that the formal promises made by a couple at a civil marriage ceremony should "always explicitly refer to the legal definition of marriage, namely that it is the union of one man with one woman, voluntarily entered into for life to the exclusion of all others."

The Office for National Statistics, which incorporates the General Register Office, said: "We have no comment because we have not had any official representation from the bishops."

Cardinal Hume also stood by his view that the waiting time before a divorce proposed in the Bill be extended from 12 months, but did not specify how long it should be.

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Weekend page 45

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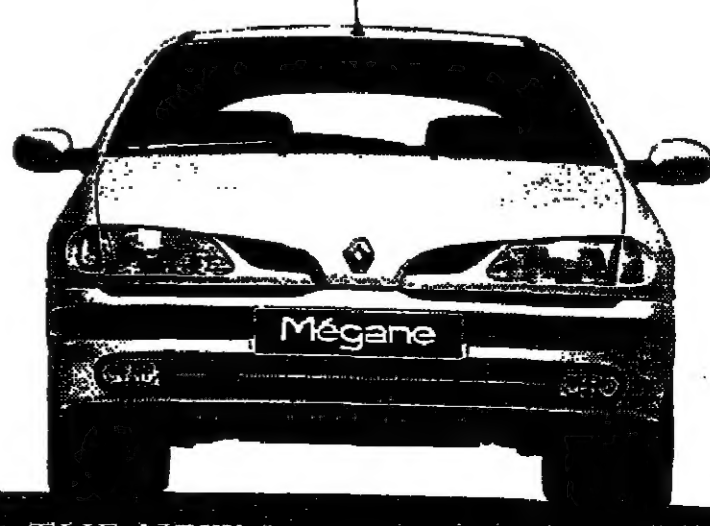
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Race against the clock for Atlanta in Olympics dash

FROM IAN BRODIE IN ATLANTA

THESE are nail-biting times in Atlanta as it counts down to opening ceremonies for the Olympic Games in three months. The city is hoping to win a world-class reputation as the Big Peach, but snags and discord still litter the track.

Heavy winter rains delayed construction of the stadium. Crews are racing to catch up, but will have their work cut out. The city centre is still a rash of hardhat sites that throb to the clatter of pneumatic drills and bulldozers. Officials have delayed the debut of a festive Olympic Park from next month to June while workers shift into high gear seven days a week. The Games start on July 19.

Anxieties about terrorism have prompted the FBI and 22 other law-enforcement agencies to hold secret exercises this week based on alarming scenarios. They included simulations of an airline hijacking

at Atlanta airport and a chemical weapons attack. Activist groups are snapping at the heels of civic supporters with increasing ferocity, with charges that low-income families have been evicted to make way for "the Olympic family".

The risks of taking a stroll in Atlanta, particularly at night, became an issue when Michael Bowers, Georgia's Attorney-General, said it would be "safer to walk the streets of Sarajevo" — a comment that angered city officials.

Atlanta will undergo a pre-Olympics test in crowd control this weekend when 200,000 black college students arrive for an annual spring rite known as Freaknik, a partying and car-cruising bash that causes untold traffic jams.

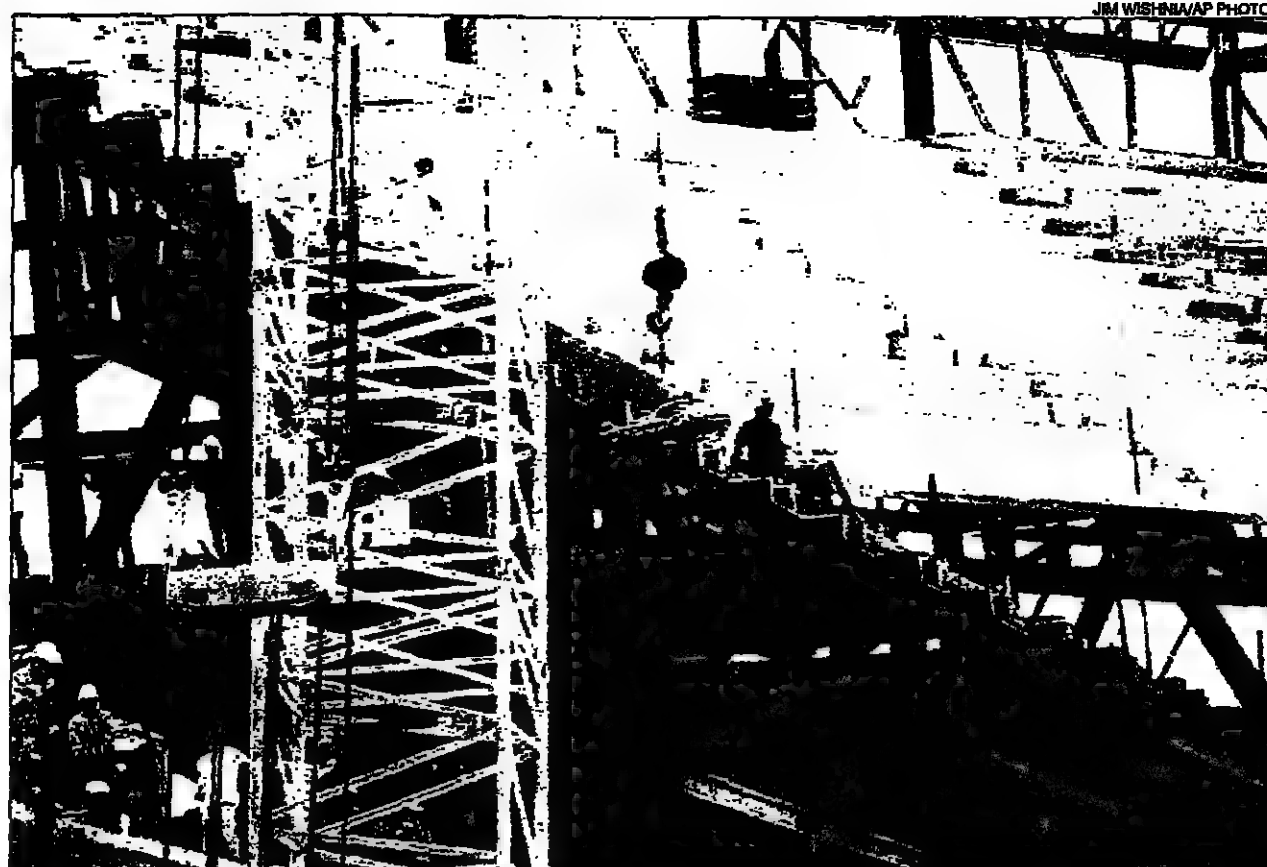
Atlanta residents who had hoped to amass sky-high profits from renting their well-to-do homes to Olympics spectators are still waiting. One rental agent, Azne Treadwell,

has listings for 6,500 houses and flats, many costing \$1,000 (£600) a day, but only five have been taken. She said prices must start falling quickly if the idea is ever to catch on.

The quest for Olympics tickets and hotel rooms remains a daunting challenge. British fans who decide to attend at this late stage will be better off buying tour packages before they leave rather than taking their chances in Atlanta, where promises of extra tickets and accommodation are falling short.

Callers to official hotlines this week were offered hotel rooms no closer than 160 miles from Atlanta. All popular events were sold out, leaving tickets only for early rounds of basketball and gymnastics, or for sports like archery and women's baseball. About 3,000 British fans are expected to make the Olympic trek.

Despite the problems, Atlanta's organisers are confi-



One of two workers hurt when a tower collapsed at the Olympic stadium last year is lowered to safety. A third was killed

dent that all work will be finished on time. "Damn right, we'll be ready," said Bob Brennan, the Games spokesman, wearily fielding questions about Atlanta's ability to finish on time. "Look at what we've already done."

The Olympic stadium with seating for 83,000 will be dedicated a month from now, even as the organising committee and architects sue each other over allegations of negligence after a light tower collapsed and killed a worker.

The Games has already set records: 197 countries will take part, 28 more than in Barcelona. There will be more than 10,000 athletes, up from 9,367 four years ago, and 3,779 will be women, a 40 per cent rise.

Reginald Mitchell, the mayor of Atlanta's British community and owner of "Reggie's British Pub", is confident the city will indeed be peachy. He said: "They'll have everything in place by opening day, but it will probably cost them a fortune in overtime."

Rifkind plea for colony's council

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN will make a last-ditch effort today to persuade China to allow Hong Kong's final elected Legislative Council to continue its work after Peking's takeover next year.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, in The Hague today to review the intensifying pace of discussions before the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty. He is expected to press Mr Qian to lift China's threat to abolish the council. Mr Rifkind will point to the harm such a move would cause. Discussions will also centre on the role of the Hong Kong Civil Service, after warnings by Peking that civil servants will be expected to show loyalty.

Lu Ping, the head of China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, slipped out of the colony by car to avoid demonstrators yesterday, after talks with officials.

Leading article, page 21

Gun owners gather in Dallas to target Clinton campaign

FROM TOM RHODES IN DALLAS

THE city where John Kennedy was assassinated has never disguised its fondness for powerful guns or strong women. Yesterday the two forces were combined in a political broadside against President Clinton.

More than 25,000 gun enthusiasts arrived in Dallas for the annual convention of the 125-year-old National Rifle Association, one of the most powerful political lobby groups in America, which could affect the presidential election.

At its helm are two women who have firmly established that the NRA is no longer a male bastion: Marion Hammer, a 57-year-old chain-smoking grandmother who became its first female chairman earlier this year, and Tanya Metaksa, her pistol-packing colleague.

The two present a strident defence of the Second Amendment right to bear arms and have promised their organisation will help to defeat Mr Clinton in November.

But membership tumbled last year by 400,000 and, according to figures to be released this weekend, NRA cash and investments have declined by more than half to \$42.8 million (£27.4 million).

With a sense of timing that even stalwarts recognise as embarrassing, the association opened its conference yesterday on the anniversaries of the Oklahoma City bombing and the FBI siege at Waco, events which have cast a shadow over a movement perceived by many Americans to support radical militia groups. Mrs Hammer said the date had been set a year before the Waco debacle in which 80 members of the Branch Davidian cult died.

Dave Edmundson, a former member of the board, accused the leadership of "bankrupting" the NRA and leading it away from its traditional roots as a group to support the rights of sportsmen in the United States.

But if the organisation has alienated a majority of America's gun owners, the more radical following still exerts plenty of political clout.

Mr Clinton has said he will veto any attempt to repeal a ban on assault weapons and the Senate is unlikely to pass such a measure. But a vote in the House last month passed with ease. It was a clear signal that House Republicans will remain loyal to the organisation, which proved essential to their election in 1994.

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Israel forced on to political defensive by massacre of Lebanon refugees

By LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

COMMENTARY

SINCE Thursday's catastrophic strikes against Lebanese civilians and their United Nations protectors, Israel has been on the political defensive. Up to that point, its strategy was to pound away until a refugee-induced build-up of economic pressure led Beirut and Damascus to accept the need to restrain Hezbollah.

This strategy required time, and one criteria was to prevent a build-up of external political pressure to bring matters to a swift conclu-

sion. Arab moderates were required to confine their displeasure to ritual condemnations. Western governments, fearful of an even harder-line Likud government, were expected to give Israel the benefit of the doubt.

Large-scale civilian casualties would inevitably be counterproductive, and so it has proved. With some grim exceptions, the operations up to Thursday had not produced the number of fatalities

that the sheer amount of munitions involved might have led one to expect. But when whole families got blown to pieces, the costs seem to be disproportionate.

The West does not want to abandon Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, but it also does not want to accept the costs of rationalising Israeli actions. Hence the demands for an immediate ceasefire.

A unilateral ceasefire by Israel while Hezbollah attacks continued would be a disastrous outcome for Mr Peres. So long as the

Katynshas keep on coming, he dare not stop Operation Grapes of Wrath. So yesterday, little seemed to have changed: rockets still fell on northern Israel; volleys of artillery shells replied — only now, it is much harder for Israel to be patient and sustain the operation at its previous level of ferocity.

Unless Israel is prepared to escalate its action by instituting large-scale ground operations in southern Lebanon, it has to seek a negotiated solution. Even this option would depend on a failed

diplomatic effort which would confirm an Israeli interest and Hezbollah disinterest in peace.

Hezbollah may well feel under no pressure to agree to a ceasefire except on favourable terms. So far, things have been going its way politically, and to some extent militarily, in that just being able to continue firing its rockets is a victory of sorts. Most Arab governments, however, including Syria, recognise that confrontations such as this can escalate out of control: they will not want Hezbollah to pass up an opportu-

nity to secure a ceasefire. Hence the optimism that a deal can be reached. One possibility would be a return to the 1993 understanding: Israeli troops on Lebanese soil would be considered fair game for ambush, but Hezbollah would eschew rocket attacks. Few would consider that much progress has been made if this was the best that could be achieved.

A more satisfactory settlement would be for Israel to find a way to evacuate its "security zone" in southern Lebanon. It has never

had any designs on Lebanese territory and this zone has not been a great success.

Nonetheless Israel, like many insecure states, still feels its borders are safest when it controls both sides. It has demanded, in return for leaving the zone, a combination of Hezbollah promises, Syrian guarantees, international supervision and nine months of peace. Of these, the most flexibility probably rests with the timing. The stronger the guarantees, the earlier it might be able to leave Lebanon alone.

UN soldiers grieve over 'slaughterhouse' tactics

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN QANA

REFUGEES

WHITE United Nations bulldozers tore at the twisted iron skeletons of two flimsy prefabricated huts where most of the 101 Lebanese refugees were killed at Qana, a desolate village five miles south of Tyre, itself a virtual ghost city. "I want to go home," said Sami Leba, 33, a Fijian lance corporal, sitting crumpled in a shrapnel-pocked white Mercedes. "I can never again pick up pieces of little babies." He was unable to continue.

Major Josepha Savva, 44, took over: "Our camp was a slaughterhouse. We were slipping on blood and flesh. People were cut in half. Bodies were thrown everywhere. This was cold-blooded murder. Why?"

As we spoke, an Israeli Apache helicopter gunship hung like a dragonfly in the sky to the west. Surrounding hills and valleys rumbled to the sound of incoming Israeli artillery shells.

The UN said 300 were fired by noon yesterday. There had already been eight Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon. Overnight Hezbollah had fired 50 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. Another massacre did not seem impossible. "We tried to communicate with the Unifil command when the Israelis started shelling yesterday, but we got cut off," said Major Savva. He added that 38 shells had rained down on the area over a 20-minute period, three hitting the camp, home to 161

Fijians who had been sheltering 850 Lebanese civilians.

The barrage came 15 minutes after six Hezbollah fighters fired two Katyusha rockets from near a cemetery, 300 yards from the camp. "We urged them to stop, but it was too late. After firing the rockets, they ran away," said Fijian staff sergeant Kelepi Nasaki. "It's dangerous trying to negotiate with Hezbollah," he said.

In Tyre's Najem Hospital, where most casualties and body bags were first taken, Shawie Balhas, 45, a father-of-12 — until the massacre — was slumping his head on the wall and wailing in a room where two of his daughters, Fidaa, 9, and Siham, 16, lay on blood-soaked beds, both with horrific burns. Two of his sons were in another hospital.

"I can't find the others, there are eight more, and my wife, Tamimi. They must all be dead," he sobbed. He had sent them to Qana for safety.

Hamid Deeb, 27, was the only patient in another small room. The doctor pulled back the blankets on her bed to reveal blood-soaked, bandaged stumps. "We amputated her right arm and her left leg below the knee immediately," he said. As many as 25 of her family — cousins, uncle, nieces and nephews — were among the dead," he added.

"I can't remember much," said Miss Deeb. "We were eating in a building. Then there were flames. A [UN] soldier was trying to hold up the roof so we could be pulled out. He was bleeding. All his face was red with blood."

Eamon Smyth, 44, from Dublin, a commandant at the UN's Tyre headquarters, was in a convoy of relief vehicles trying to deliver aid to civilians marooned in villages under Israeli fire when radio calls for assistance came from Qana. "When we got there, there were rows upon rows of bodies," he said. "The charred bodies of women and children everywhere. I've never seen anything so horrific in 22 years of soldiering."

The UN spokesman in Tyre, Mikael Lindvall, said Qana "was a disaster waiting to happen". As he spoke, many of the 200 refugees in the UN's Tyre base dived for cover as the earth shook from the explosive sonic boom of an Israeli warplane — reminding people that a noon deadline to flee Israel's free-fire zone had expired. Every few minutes for the next four hours Israeli gunboats pumped two or three shells into the coast.

Sweating motorists tuned into radios heard optimistic talk about a possible ceasefire. But optimism was not the word to describe the mood in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Letters, page 21



A young survivor of the Israeli raid on the UN refugee camp in Qana recovering in a Tyre hospital yesterday

Iran urges retaliation

Tehran: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, yesterday urged Hezbollah guerrillas to strike back at Israel for the massacre of civilians in southern Lebanon. In a message to Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the Tehran-backed Hezbollah, Ayatollah Khamenei said that he was "deeply saddened" by the Israeli shelling of the UN refugee compound. "Dignity requires that you withstand Zionist attacks and strike a

blow to make them remorseful of their acts. The slightest sign of yielding would make [Israel] bolder and more beastly."

He added: "This great human catastrophe shows how bold the Zionists have become and how they disregard international norms."

All Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, condemned the Israeli shelling of the UN compound in Qana as "a ruthless and savage act". (AFP)

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

M&G sides with BET in Rentokil bid battle

By Sarah Cunningham

BET, the business services company, received a big boost in its campaign to thwart a hostile £2.1 billion bid by Rentokil when its largest institutional shareholder pledged support for the incumbent management.

M&G Investment Management yesterday took the unusual step of publicly declaring its support for BET in respect of its 7.5 per cent holding with seven days remaining before the bid closes. The move strengthened BET's case in the escalating bid battle, which has until now been seen as going clearly Rentokil's

way. One other large institutional investor said yesterday he expects Rentokil still to win, but others said it was too close to call.

BET yesterday made public a letter from M&G to Sir Christopher Harding, the BET chairman, endorsing the efforts of John Clark, chief executive, to restore the company's fortunes. "John has not only accomplished this most successfully, but has also been consistent in setting out his plans for the future and is now delivering results in line with these strategies," M&G said.

"BET has very attractive prospects and (we) look forward to the long-

term benefits that we believe will accrue to our investors from BET remaining as an independent firm."

M&G has a record of supporting the incumbent management, having recently supported Amec in its successful fight to fend off a takeover bid from Kvaerner, of Norway. Rentokil declined to respond to M&G's declaration of support for BET, but restated its attack on BET's corporate strategy and prospects. Advisers to Rentokil, while disappointed by M&G's move, privately expressed confidence that the Rentokil bid would succeed.

One fund manager said yesterday

he had reached a decision on which way to go and would delay voting until the last minute. He said that the M&G statement had not influenced his thinking.

He said: "I think it will be a very close run thing." He added: "In the last week, BET has put up a robust defence and Rentokil has put a robust attack."

Other institutional investors with significant stakes in BET are Prudential, Threadneedle, Hermes, BZW and Sun Life. Standard Life is one of the few firms with large shareholdings in both BET and Rentokil. In what appeared to be a hedging

move, Sun Life sold 12.5 million of its 40 million BET shares on Thursday. Private shareholders account for less than 10 per cent of BET's shares.

Charles Pick, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker, said M&G's move was not conclusive but said it was "a major coup on BET's part."

Rentokil is offering nine new shares and £10 in cash for every 20 BET shares, plus a 4p dividend. BET has described the offer as inadequate. BET shares closed at 202.4p yesterday, down 3p. Rentokil fell 3p to 352p.

Tempus, page 28

Hanson poised to buy power stations

By Christine Buckley

EASTERN Group, the regional electricity company owned by Hanson, was poised yesterday to become Britain's fourth largest generator by buying stations worth more than £1.3 billion from National Power.

The deal, expected to be announced imminently, will put Eastern into the generating super-league behind National Power, PowerGen and the nuclear generators of British Energy. It will also anger critics of vertical integration — the combination of generation and distribution in one company.

Eastern is already the largest supplier of electricity in Britain, serving a customer base of three million.

Vertical integration is an issue in two bids for regional companies by National Power and PowerGen. A ruling is expected shortly from Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade. It has been recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but vehemently opposed by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator.

The deal between Eastern and National Power is conditional on ratification by Mr Lang. National Power has previously argued that if it is

not allowed to buy Southern Electric, for which it has bid £2.8 billion, it would not make competitive sense to sell power plant to a fast-growing vertically integrated company.

The expected deal with National Power — which was forced to sell plant by Professor Littlechild to encourage competition in generation — is for stations producing 4,000 megawatts and will cost between £1.3 and £1.7 billion. Last November, Eastern bought 2,000 megawatts of plant from PowerGen for £450 million after the generator complied with a similar self-off order.

Eastern, which has a further 800 megawatts of plant commissioned or under construction, is now close to its goal, declared six years ago on privatisation, of being the third largest generator by 1998.

The deal with National Power for three coal-fired stations will be for 99-year leases with "earn-out" arrangements so the generator is paid a proportion of the bill over several years according to output. That way National Power retains an interest in the generation of the plant.

Separately, National Power is working to scupper a bid approach from Southern Company, of the US, by rushing through emergency talks with Southern Electric, its own intended bid target.

Talks are being held in an effort to push through a purchase as soon as Mr Lang clears the bid. If he rules in favour of vertical integration then a recommended offer will be made swiftly to shareholders.

They are negotiating a new price which could represent a substantial premium on the £2.8 billion offered last year before the bid was referred.

Once a sum is agreed, the bid could go through within 21 days. Such speed would leave Southern of the US scant time to persuade National Power shareholders to agree to its bid, which is likely to go hostile.

If the US company, which owns Swb, the regional electricity company, tries to bid for the UK generator complete with its acquisition of Southern Electric (UK), it is certain to face referral to the MMC.

Melvyn Marckus, page 26



Edouard Gremlich, right, chief executive, and David Cook, finance director, yesterday

Hotels group raises £180m in flotation

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne Hotels raised £180 million yesterday in its initial public offering, capitalising the group at £402 million (Eric Reguly writes). The company, which has 22 business hotels, said that it would use the funds to expand its four-star portfolio in North America.

Baring Brothers underwrote 64.7 million shares at 278p. The company said a notional net dividend of 4.7p in 1995 represents a gross yield of 2.1 per cent on the flotation price.

The offering reduced from 100 per cent to 55 per cent Millennium's ownership by CDL Hotels International, controlled by the Singapore billionaire, Kwek Leng Beng.

Tempus, page 28

Bank go-head for new clearing system

By Robert Miller

THE threat of a massive bank failure bringing the City to the edge of multi-million pound "systemic" collapse will be significantly reduced on Monday. The Bank of England yesterday gave the green light to a new system capable of handling about £200 billion worth of instantaneous inter-bank transfers each day.

The introduction of the Real Time Gross Settlement system next week means that the days of messengers in individual livery carrying cheques worth millions of pounds between City houses have finally been buried. The formal inter-bank messenger service was ended in 1995 when the Town Clear-

ing Service within the Square Mile was phased out.

Under the present system, details of inter-bank transfers are transmitted immediately on the Clearing House Automated Payment System, but the handing over of the actual money happens only at the end of every day. Typically, this might be until 7.30pm.

What has particularly concerned the Bank of England and the Association for Payment Clearing Services is that the average volume transferred each day last year was £106 billion. That is rising steadily. On one day alone last month, more than £170 billion was transmitted.

Fraud inquiry at Littlewoods

By Jon Ashworth

FRAUD squad detectives are investigating allegations of a "substantial" fraud at Littlewoods, the pools-to-stores group owned by the secretive Moores family. John Baird, former head of the company's building services department, was dismissed in January, and is now the centre of the fraud squad inquiry. Two other employees were also dismissed, but are not being investigated.

Management was alerted to alleged irregularities by an anonymous letter. Littlewoods's in-house security team studied allegations that contracts with suppliers in Scotland had been over-inflated.

They called in the Liverpool police fraud squad, who passed on their findings to police in Strathclyde. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service and the Procurator-General in Dumbarton.

The building services department is based at the Liverpool head office of the Littlewoods stores, and is responsible for fabric and fittings at 130 Littlewoods stores, along with distribution centres and head office. The stores division has annual sales of £700 million, and a "very substantial sum" is thought to be involved.

Mr Baird had been with the company for less than a year.

A spokesman said: "We're not ashamed

to have detected this. The message is: if anyone is behaving like this, they are out."

The incident is the latest in a string of set-backs for Littlewoods, which has been rocked by internal family squabbles. In October 1994, three senior managers in the company's buying department were dismissed over fraud allegations.

Barry Dale, former chief executive, was dismissed in March 1995. Late last year, Mr Dale emerged at the head of a group seeking to buy Littlewoods for £1.2 billion. The bid was defeated, along with a rival £1.1 billion offer from N Brown, the mail order business.

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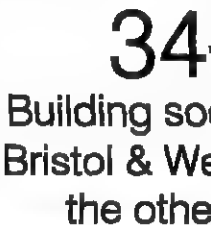
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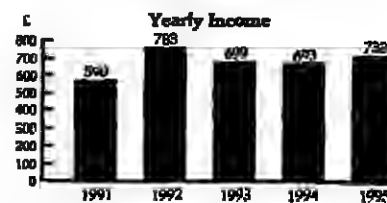
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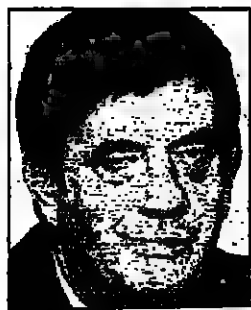
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TT 20.04.96

US bidders wait on Lang to throw the switch



MELVYN MARCKUS

our shareholders, how it is to be financed and your plans for the business, my board will then consider whether it would be in the best interests of our shareholders and the business that we should respond positively to your request for a meeting." Baker concluded that National Power "is not and will not" be for sale unless "compelling value" for shareholders is "put forward in a credible way".

Mr Boren, whose approach to takeovers is reminiscent of Lord Hanson and the late Lord White — chat first, shoot later — is said to be deeply "disappointed" at National Power's reaction. That said, National Power has never been an easy enterprise to read. It was Baker who called for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for Manweb to be referred to the MMC and proclaimed that National Power would not bid for a Rec, a statement overtaken by its £2.8 billion offer for Southern UK. Not for the first time, speculation has it that Baker and Henry burn on different fuels, the "closed door" approach being perceived as a classic reaction from Henry, rather than Baker, a former Whitehall mandarin. National Power also enjoys a secret weapon in the non-executive personage of Sir Alastair Morton, the Eurotunnel chief genetically designed to cope with corporate crises.

The MMC's report on PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern UK has been lying on Mr Lang's desk at the DTI since March 29. Everyone knows that the MMC has given a qualified green light for the bids because *The Times* disclosed this on March 6 and *The Economist*, with the benefit of a leaked copy of the report, confirmed our prediction a week ago. Mr Lang returned from overseas on April 15, and will pronounce on the MMC's findings before April 30, the traditional days for such activities being Tuesdays and Thursdays. The longer the Government delays, the more inept it looks. Suffice to say that Lang may, or may not, speak early next week.

The panel, spearheaded by Graeme Odgers, chairman of the MMC, voted four to one in favour of clearance, the dissenting voice being Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning. The MMC's conclusion is that although the mergers "may be expected to operate against the public interest" in certain respects, these are not "sufficiently serious to justify prohibition". This wording,

in theory, permits Lang to reject the MMC's findings, witness a massive behind-the-scenes campaign to discredit the MMC. Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Offer, remains passionately opposed to vertical integration but, on balance, the City still expects Lang to accept the MMC's recommendations.

Should Lang give a go ahead, PowerGen and National Power will press ahead with their respective bids. Should Lang reject the MMC's recommendations, Midlands, in which PowerGen holds a 21 per cent stake, could well attract a bid from General Public Utilities of the US. Also waiting on Lang is Houston Industries, reputed to be lining up an offer for London Electric 8p higher last week at 817p.

Southern UK can choose to rumble or withdraw from its National Power play but, should it go hostile, its opening gambit is unlikely to be significantly above National Power's current quote of 592p — up 100p on an eventful week.

The latest developments in the power sector will hardly have come as a bolt from a pylon to readers of *The Times*. It was on April 1, in an article entitled *Power bidders brace for MMC's report*, that we first focused on speculation that the UK's two principal generating companies — National Power and PowerGen — were unlikely to prove bid-proof during the next round of consolidation within the sector. Last week, this column flagged the prospect of a transatlantic takeover bid for one of the GenCos and, on Wednesday, *The Times* exclusively disclosed that Southern Electric International, of Atlanta, Georgia, had its sights set on the acquisition of National Power.

It would appear that Southern UK, which acquired SWEB for £1.1 billion during last year's open season for Recs, has been eyeing National Power since well before Christmas. Southern UK, led by Thomas Boren, president and chief executive, clearly intended to do no more than carry on eyeing

until Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, responded to the MMC's green lights for PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern UK. But, as Southern UK negotiated the thick end of \$10 billion worth of financing with a consortium of City banks, word leaked. On Tuesday, close on 13 million shares in National Power changed hands as the price soared 31½p to 521½p. The Takeover Panel, already familiar with Southern UK's designs, directed SBC Warburg, Southern UK's adviser, to issue a statement the following morning. Against this background, Mr Boren held a late meeting with John Baker, chairman of National Power, and Keith Henry, chief executive. This pumpkin hour parlez was, by all accounts, an amicable affair. Boren presumably outlined his vision of the creation of a Southern US/National Power global utility and, so it would seem, pressed for exploratory *tétes à tétes*.

Matters reached the public domain on Wednesday, the theme from Southern's camp being that, whatever *tétes à tétes* might ensue, "formal" merger talks would not take place until after Lang's response to the MMC's report. The theme from National Power's camp was somewhat different. Their theme, albeit my words, was that talking was for wimps. Witness, come Thursday, Baker's blunt letter to Boren. Baker let it be known that there was "no point" in Boren's proposed meeting. He emphasised that National Power's strategy was focused on the acquisition, if cleared, of Southern UK and the expansion of international operations. Baker questioned Southern UK's ability to "structure an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair value". Why, he asked, should National Power combine its business with SWEB rather than Southern UK? Just in case Mr Boren had not got the drift, Baker added: "If you make a proposal to us, including the price you would be proposing to offer to

G7 focus will fall on weakness in Europe's economy

By JANET BUSH, FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE dollar's rally over the past year against the Japanese yen and the Bundesbank's beautifully turned out in Germany interest rates on Thursday create a relatively positive backdrop to tomorrow's meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised countries in Washington.

The overvaluation of the yen against the dollar was last year's big issue but officials are now generally satisfied after the dollar's appreciation of around 35 per cent against the yen in the past year.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, reaffirmed on Thursday that a strong dollar was in the interests of America and Western Europe. Japan's finance minister, said that G7 co-operation on currencies will continue. The yen has been appreciating again recently in response to signs that the Japanese economy may be recovering from its long stagnation and this trend will be discussed tomorrow, and watched closely.

The bigger question for the G7 now is the chronic weak-

ness in European economies and the strength of the mark. The Bundesbank's move on Thursday to cut its discount and Lombard rates by half a point was meant to address both these issues. The German central bank has often moved rates just before international meetings and, yet again, it has taken heat off the German contingent.

There were rate cuts yesterday by Ireland, Greece and Portugal, and Spanish and French bond markets rallied strongly in the expectation that next week will see rate cuts in these countries, too.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, which begins its spring meeting on Monday, urged France last week to follow Germany's lead. The IMF poured doubt on Europe's ability to move to monetary union by 1999 unless it can boost economic growth through lower interest rates.

In spite of Germany's move, it is likely the squeeze on European growth of current efforts to cut budget deficits down to Maastricht treaty limits will feature large in discussions tomorrow.

The other major issue on the agenda is the current drive to agree a comprehensive package of debt reduction for the world's poorest countries. Last week there were indications that a light is looming behind the G7 and the IMF over who will bear the bulk of the cost. The ongoing crisis in the Russian economy will also be discussed.

Planet Hollywood at 66% premium

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

PLANET HOLLYWOOD, the restaurant chain backed by film stars such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis, soared to a 66 per cent premium when its shares opened on Wall Street's Nasdaq over-the-counter stock market yesterday.

Amid frenzied dealing, investors battled to get hold of shares, forcing the price up from an initial \$18 to more than \$30, in what has been one of the most popular share issues of the year. The issue raised \$194 million.

Film stars who have lent their names to the restaurant chain's publicity have been given shares. The biggest

winners, however, are the co-founders, Keith Barish and Robert Earl. Mr Earl is the British entrepreneur who was previously involved in the Hard Rock Cafe. They each own about a third of the company and are now worth more than \$200 million each.

At the \$18 issue price, Planet Hollywood was valued at \$1.9 billion, but the price rise has now put its value at more than \$3 billion. The chain made a profit last year — \$20 million — for the first time since it was founded in 1991. It has plans to open a further 15 restaurants this year.



Richard Upton, front, and Richard Mais

CN&C seeking out candidates for acquisition

CLARKE, Nickolls & Coombs, the revitalised property investment company, said yesterday that acquisitions and mergers remain a high priority.

The company, whose chief executive is Richard Mais, has increased the final dividend 50 per cent to 0.27p, making a total of 0.27p (0.2p). Pre-tax profits rose to £1.5 million in 1995 from £1.2 million previously, while earnings rose to 0.82p a share (0.65p).

During the year, a 22 per cent shareholding was taken by institutional investors, including M&C, HSBC, Thornton and Glaxo Trustees. Richard Upton, chairman, and Andrew Nedham, property director, control Longworth Investments, which acquired a 29.9 per cent stake.

Shell to cut back on refining in Europe

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, said yesterday that it would cut back its refining capacity in Europe. Cor Herkströter, group chairman, said that the company intended to reduce overcapacity, particularly in France, while expanding refining operations in South-East Asia.

The company would not give details of how the reduction would be achieved, but market speculation is centred on Berré L'Eclat, a small French refinery with 127,000 barrels per day of distillation capacity. Shell has already announced plans to reduce its operations at Shellhaven in the UK.

Among European countries,

Chances of fast BT and C&W deal diminish

By ERIC RSOULEY

CABLE and Wireless and BT have indicated that it will probably take several weeks, or even months, before an agreement is struck to create the world's first truly global telecoms group.

Although progress is being made, the companies said that the talks could break down at any moment, as they have once before. A source close to the talks said: "It could be decided that the hurdles are insurmountable. If it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. Shareholder value is the central factor at the end of the day."

Shares of both companies retreated yesterday as chances of a fast deal diminished. C&W closed at 540p, down 6p, while BT fell 2p to 377p.

C&W and BT have reached broad agreement on the structure of the deal, but little else. They would come together in a reverse takeover, in which C&W would become the technical owner of the larger BT. The company would operate under the C&W name because it is much better known internationally; the BT name would be used only in the UK.

The structure is designed to preserve C&W's trading relationships in the 50 or so countries in which it operates. If BT took control of C&W instead of the other way round, C&W's foreign licences probably would become invalid.

Among the most important outstanding issues are determining the value of Hongkong Telecom, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, and deciding what presence the new group should have in Germany. C&W and BT have competing alliances there and, in all probability, one of them will have to be sacrificed.

Vision Group rises on Fisher-Price link

VISION GROUP has reached agreement with Fisher-Price, the US toy company, to supply image sensors for use in a children's toy instant camera. It also announced plans to raise £2.5 million via a share placing of 1.5 million new shares at 22p each to fund expansion.

News of the Fisher-Price deal boosted Vision's share price by 18p to 257p in spite of the company reporting a half-year loss. The new Fisher-Price Creative Effects camera enables children to take instant pictures with fun special effects. Vision, which was floated a year ago, disclosed a loss of £895,000 before tax in the six months to January 31, in line with expectations. Turnover in the first half rose 32 per cent to £1.1 million. Vision will step up production in the second half of this year after signing several sales agreements. One is with Tyco Inc, a US toy maker, which is to make a black and white video camera and in a deal with Vivitar, Vision is to supply a colour camera chip for use in videoconferencing.

Microsoft 42% ahead

MICROSOFT achieved a 42 per cent jump in third-quarter earnings, comfortably ahead of expectations and showing no sign of injury from the worldwide slowdown in computer sales this year. Net income for the three months to March 31 rose to \$563 million (\$395 million) on revenues of \$2.2 billion. Microsoft's performance is considerably stronger than many other personal computer companies, which have been suffering from difficult market conditions. Its success is partly because of the new Windows 95 software which delivers a higher margin of profit than Microsoft's previous software.

Amec buys BR service

AMEC has bought British Rail's South West Infrastructure Maintenance Company, which provides maintenance, engineering and construction services in the geographic area bounded by London, Hastings, East Sussex, and Exeter in Devon, and including Victoria and Waterloo mainline stations. Amec, the international construction and engineering group, is paying £11 million for the business, which employs 2,200 people. South West IMC's principal customer is Railtrack, which accounts for about 70 per cent of turnover.

Laing wins £100m deal

JOHN LAING, the construction group, has been awarded a £100 million contract to build the shell of the National Superdome sports, entertainment, convention and exhibition complex in Bradford. Laing, one of three contractors shortlisted for the project, will also have the opportunity to negotiate fitting-out work worth a further £100 million. Preparatory work on the 70-acre site at Odsal begins later this month. Superdome will provide a 65,000-seat sports complex, two hotels, a multi-screen cinema and shopping mall. Laing shares were unchanged at 322p yesterday.

Halifax buys loan book

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY has purchased the £340 million UK residential mortgage book of France's Banque Paribas. The purchase maintains Halifax's Home Loans, a wholly-owned subsidiary, as one of the UK's largest centralised lenders, with assets of more than £3 billion. Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "Acquisition of good quality mortgage books continues to be a logical move by Halifax in a highly competitive mortgage market and complements the organic growth of the society." Paribas will now concentrate on its specialist financial services activities.

Courtaulds tests Japan

COURTAULDS, the UK chemicals and fibres company, has moved to get its revolutionary man-made Lyocell yarn into the Japanese market. Courtaulds and Akzo Nobel, its development partner, have agreed with Japan's Asahi Chemical Company to assess the potential demand in Japan. Made from wood pulp, Lyocell filament fabrics look like silk and feel like cashmere, but are said to be strong as denim. Akzo Nobel is producing the fibre in Osnabrück, Germany. Courtaulds' contribution and product know-how comes from Tencel, its Lyocell staple fibre.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Sells	Buy
Australia \$	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	17.03	15.33
Belgium F	48.63	45.53
Canada \$	2.176	2.016
Cyprus Cyp	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	8.42	7.82
Finland Mk	7.74	7.09
France F	6.15	5.50
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	366.00	341.00
Hong Kong \$	12.39	11.39
Ireland P	1.62	1.52
Israel Sh	5.200	0.94
Italy Lira	2488.00	2333.00
Japan Yen	176.30	160.30
Malta	0.650	0.538
Netherlands Gld	2.703	2.473
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.14
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa R	6.96	6.16
Spain Pta	167.00	151.00
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.50	1.31
Turkey Lira	1183.00	1083.00
USA \$	1.615	1.485

POWER STRUGGLE

National Power, Britain's largest electricity generator, is preparing for a battle royal against a determined corporate aggressor — Southern Power of Atlanta — which is poised to launch a near-£7 billion bid that would transform the UK power game...

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Agreed Offer by
SBC Warburg
A DIVISION OF PRUDENTIAL BANK CORPORATION
on behalf of
TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC
(Incorporated in England, number 2153093)
registered as an investment company under Section 266 Companies Act 1985)
for the whole of the ordinary share capital of
Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc
Up to £2,000,000 nominal of TR Pacific Ordinary Shares and up to £10,000,000 nominal of TR Pacific "C" Shares
SBC Warburg announces on behalf of TR Pacific Investment Trust PLC ("TR Pacific") that, by means of a formal offer document (the "Offer Document") dated and despatched on 14 April 1996, SBC Warburg is making an offer (the "Offer") on behalf of TR Pacific to acquire all the ordinary shares in Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust PLC ("TAEMIT") in cash, on 14 April 1996, or at any time prior to the date on which the Offer closes for such earlier date, not being earlier than the date on which the Offer becomes unconditional as to acceptance, or, if later, the first closing date of the Offer, as TR Pacific may determine. TAEMIT is a public company limited by guarantee.

A person who accepts the Offer but does not accept the Cash Alternative described below will receive such number of new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares as will, when added to the TR Pacific Ordinary Shares already held by him, result in a total TR Pacific Ordinary Shareholding of 100 per cent of the TR Pacific Ordinary Shares. A person who accepts the Offer and the Cash Alternative described below will receive such number of new TR Pacific Ordinary Shares as will, when added to the TR Pacific Ordinary Shares already held by him, result in a total TR Pacific Ordinary Shareholding of 100 per cent of the TR Pacific Ordinary Shares. The Offer is subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Offer Document, which may be amended or varied from time to time. The Offer is subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Offer Document, which may be amended or varied from time to time.

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15/04/1996

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: PHILLIP THORPE

An able protector on the investment front line

Robert Miller
talks to the
Kiwi charged
with ensuring
that investors
can sleep easy

Phillip Thorpe is the custodian of £1,000 billion. He is not a tycoon and the money is not his. Nevertheless, if any of it goes missing he will be held accountable, and the chances of him keeping his job as a senior City watchdog will be slim indeed. If he gets it right, however, we all get to sleep easier.

The 41-year-old New Zealander is chief executive of a body known by the cumbersome title of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation — more simply identified by its acronym of Imro. Thorpe's best as a frontline regulator is to ensure that those charged with looking after money invested on our behalf in pension funds or unit and investment trusts do so properly. Sadly, his brief does not stretch to how well the money managers perform.

Thorpe, who has practised as a solicitor and a barrister, is well aware of the pitfalls in his job. If there is one constant nightmare it is that of a late-night call to tell him a "black hole" has appeared in a pension fund. Thorpe knows all about that. He got his present job in July 1993 with the express instruction to save Imro from extinction after the Robert Maxwell affair.

Imro regulated Bishopsgate Investment Management and London and Bishopsgate Investment Management, two of the companies that looked after the Maxwell pension funds and in which there was an unexplained shortfall of £440 million.

Imro was heavily criticised by MPs, pensioners, consumer groups and just about everybody else. Thorpe recalls: "I came in because there was a great deal of doubt about the future of Imro and there was a lot of work to be done." Since that low point, Imro has made up lost ground, so much so that Thorpe started this week by launching a radical blueprint for the way in which his charges are regulated in the future and, more importantly, how consumers need to be better informed.

On Monday, he started the ball rolling on what is likely to be a long-term project. It has certainly occupied most of this week with a series of meetings, presentations and phone calls to explain the result of Imro's research. And those results should give anyone who has



Wine and poses: Phillip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, who mixes his vital City watchdog role with a spot of viticulture as owner of a vineyard in the Loire region

invested their money serious food for thought.

Thorpe, whose first job on leaving New Zealand was a two-year stint in the tiny island republic of Nauru, in the South Pacific, as public prosecutor, film censor and registrar of births, deaths and marriages, says: "It is time to recognise and address the fact that the achievement of adequate investor protection by conventional financial regulation alone remains an elusive, and probably unattainable, goal. Investors must be better prepared for the financial decisions they must take."

Thorpe adds: "Financial regulation is actually a social policy. Whichever government is in power it is an inescapable fact that people are having to make more and more provision for themselves, rather than rely on the State. This applies to pensions and retirement as much as long-term care and critical illness policies." The bottom line for Thorpe and his fellow regulators is "that people do not want to find themselves penniless and ripped-off."

Thorpe, who studied politics and law, was enticed to the UK in 1989 by Christopher Sharpley, former head of the Securities and Futures Authority, a fellow watchdog with responsibility for brokers and futures dealers. Thorpe had moved to Hong Kong from Nauru in 1981 to work for the colony's Government. He moved rapidly up the promotion ladder and in October 1987 was appointed chief executive of the Hong Kong Futures Exchange to assist it

through the aftermath of the worldwide stock market crash. Thorpe says of his time in Hong Kong: "It was a very interesting period and I was introduced to some extremely unsavoury characters. But knowing someone is bent is different from proving it." It is this theme of proof that is exercising Thorpe and his fellow regulators in the UK. "In disciplinary proceedings we have to provide a very high level of proof that is sometimes even more demanding than in a criminal case."

On Thursday, Thorpe was delighted when the SFA confirmed that it was considering making details of its disciplinary proceedings more transparent. The SFA decision came after an earlier public outcry over an investigation into the role played by senior executives at Barings before the crash. The SFA announced that Peter Baring, the former chairman, had agreed that he would never work in the City again, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, had agreed to play a restricted role. It subsequently transpired that a restricted role meant retiring at 52 on an annual pension of around £120,000 and that he could expect to receive a further sum of some £110,000 for consultancy work at ING Barings.

The public perception was that the two most senior men in charge of the 233-year-old merchant bank at the time of the 1995 million crash, and who had, albeit unwittingly, benefited from handsome bonuses based on Nick Leeson's bogus trading, had got off scot-free. Wrong but nevertheless understandable. As Thorpe

says, to bring a full-blown disciplinary case and prove that "an act of misconduct" has been committed is becoming even more difficult in these increasingly litigious times. Sharpley says of Thorpe: "He has energy and undoubted talents, but he has a habit of sheering off at a tangent and needs to be brought back on track." This habit was evident

last summer when Thorpe let it be widely known that he intended to be savagely critical of the role played by the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, when he gave evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee to back his previously submitted written evidence. Suitably briefed, the MPs waited for the flak to

fly. They waited in vain. Afterwards, Thorpe, who has five children from two marriages, said that he felt "constrained and unable to say all I wanted to". The allegation was that he had been gagged by Charles Nunneley, the Imro chairman on the instructions of Andrew Large, the SIB chairman. Both parties strongly denied the allegation.

Thorpe felt his job was under threat and said at the time: "I felt it was difficult to reconcile the substantial differences between the written submission and my answer to questions" at the Commons. The committee then considered whether a witness had been tampered with and thus whether a breach of parliamentary privilege had occurred. In the end,

the matter was quietly dropped. Thorpe had survived.

Thorpe's fellow regulators delivered equally damning verdicts on the SIB's role in City regulation but did so in a somewhat more restrained manner. But as Thorpe said this week: "The SIB has restructured and we the frontline regulators are being allowed the room to get on and do our job." Whether last summer's outburst has affected Thorpe's long-term prospects of achieving a higher position in the pecking order remains to be seen, but at least he tackled the issues head-on as he has done again this week, albeit in a milder way.

If he were to quit, Thorpe has another business to go into and even this week he was making sure that he attended to it when he had the time. Thorpe owns a vineyard in the Loire region of France where his two young children live with his wife Melinda or Mel, a former stockbroker. The 22½-acre vineyard produces some 5,000 cases of bubbly and a still Chenin blanc. Customers now include top restaurants such as Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, L'Ortolan, near Reading, and RSJ in London.

If Thorpe were to quit the regulatory scene investors would undoubtedly lose an able and charismatic protector who still has a lot to offer. He seems unfazed at the prospect and even less so that he might not sell all of his wine. As he says: "I can always drink it."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Courtaulds' silver shines through the generations

Visitors to the Court-auld Galleries at Somerset House may be drawn by an impressive collection of elegant silverware displayed in the anteroom to the Great Room upstairs. The fine silver pieces are notable for their superb modelling, their simplicity and their restraint. Perhaps most notable of all is that they were made by three generations of the Court-auld family, between 1710 and 1778.

It is only recently that the silverware has been brought together in its entirety. The collection has been built up over the past 70 years and is now one of the most significant private collections in the country, consisting of high-quality pieces that show all the best standards of work associated with refugee Huguenot goldsmiths of the period.

Augustin Courtauld IV, a French merchant, arrived with his family in 1687 from Ile d'Oléron near La Rochelle. He apprenticed two of his sons to the master goldsmith Simon Pantin. The elder son, also Augustin, served under Pantin from 1701 until 1708, before establishing his own premises in St Martin-in-the-Fields. Augustin cornered the market in supplying the London aristocracy with silver vessels for the new drinks of the day — tea,



Louisa Courtauld's 1765 cup and cover

coffee and chocolate. He also developed an important line in two-handled cups. One, dated 1714, bears an inscription recording the friendship between Robert Boyle (1627-1715), of the Royal Society, and Gilbert Burnett, Bishop of Salisbury (1643-1715).

His business did well and his son, Samuel, born in 1720, also served in his

father's workshop. Samuel Courtauld's mark appears on the more sumptuous domestic pieces in the collection, including a 1748 rococo tea kettle and stand and a 1751 soup tureen with applied foliage and ram's feet. Samuel moved his premises to Cornhill as the business expanded, but he died in 1765, aged 45. After only 19 years in the craft, he had

achieved the same smithing status as his father. His widow, Louisa, with her husband's former apprentice, George Cowles, produced some fine silver made in the neo-classical style. Examples include a restrained and finely decorated bread basket, dated 1771, and a further series of two-handled cups and covers. Louisa's son, Samuel II, joined her in the business until 1780 when it was sold, so ending the family tradition.

The collection has recently been crowned with the inclusion of a silver gilt cup and cover bearing the joint marks of Louisa and Samuel II. Her other son, George, was apprenticed to a silk throwster in Spitalfields and began the family connection with the silk industry from which Court-aulds and Courtaulds Textiles ultimately grew.

"The collection makes a point about the quality of design and the high standards of craftsmanship of Court-auld," says David Stevens, deputy company secretary of Courtaulds. "It is something we would certainly like to keep intact — it shows we have been around for three centuries now, and we would like to be around for a little bit longer yet."

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Are you on the right track?

Marianne Curphey considers the £1.8bn sale of Railtrack

Is it going to be the sale of the century or a privatisation dogged by risk and regulatory interference? Barring a last-minute disaster, the great Railtrack sell-off looks set to be oversubscribed when applications close next month. Smaller investors are being tempted by estimates of a total yield of between 14 and 20 per cent, while the City has watched Railtrack's price tag drop from £2 billion to around £1.8 billion because of political uncertainty and now believes the share offer will be fairly priced.

Institutional investors running index-tracking funds will have to hold Railtrack shares in their portfolio, which will push up demand for stock when it is first floated. Publicly, institutions are talking down the deal, hoping to drive the offer price down even further before flotation. Railtrack will go on a series of roadshows next week in an attempt to convince the City that it has the assets and the management skills necessary to pull off the deal.

Few in the Square Mile are willing to make predictions about the stock's performance

in the long term, but most agree that it looks a good short-term bet.

Audrey Lowrie, a director on HSBC's UK equities desk, said: "The dividend yield is very attractive for small investors, particularly in the first year."

She believes that there could also be an opportunity for staggering — selling shares on the first day of trading to take advantage of pent-up demand.

Stags made thousands of pounds in 24 hours when the first tranche of British Telecom shares were floated in 1985. When Orange was floated last month, it joined the FT-SE 100 index very quickly and was in demand from institutions for their index-tracking funds. Stags made up to 35p per share in the first day.

Undeterred by the political row, more than 900,000 people have registered with the 10,000 Share Shops in Britain for the Railtrack issue.

In an attempt to guard against the flotation becoming a public relations disaster, the Government is giving small investors a better deal than the large institutions, and at least a third of all shares will go to individuals.



There is always a risk in tracking any privatised company, and Railtrack has more than its fair share of politically driven uncertainties

THE RISKS

How likely is it that if Labour wins the next election, it will try to renationalise the organisation? Analysts believe that because the Government is selling off all of its stake in the organisation — instead of retaining 49 per cent of shares as it did in previous sell-offs such as electricity — Tony Blair will be unwilling and unlikely to attempt to buy back the whole of Railtrack. Such a measure would be a difficult, time-consuming and costly exercise which would alienate small shareholders and large institutional investors in the City.

Instead, Labour is far more likely to tighten the powers of the regulator and introduce restrictive rules on contracts and charges which could stunt Railtrack's earnings capacity. Labour gives warning in a three-page policy statement in the Railtrack pathfinder prospectus that it is concerned at the high-track access charges that Railtrack is allowed to levy in order to guarantee a high return to shareholders. Labour has pledged to review these charges if it is returned to government at the general election.

THE REWARDS

Payment for Railtrack shares will be in two instalments over 13 months, each in a different tax year, and the return on fully-paid shares is expected to be between 6 and 7 per cent — slightly above the yield on privatised utilities. The first instalment for investors in the UK public offer is 190p per share. Since individual investors do not have to pay for their shares in full until June 1997, if returns in the first year average around 7 per cent, they will receive the equivalent of a 14 per cent return. A total final dividend for the financial year 1995-96 will be paid on October 4 this year to all shareholders on the register at a specified date, which is likely to be September this year.

Railtrack proposes that this will be equivalent to about £69 million. For the second instalment, those who subscribe through Share Shops for the public offer will be offered the choice of a discount worth up to £120 or a bonus of one free share for every 15 bought. These incentives could be worth a further 4 to 6 per cent, making a potential total return of around 20 per cent, though this is by no means guaranteed.

HOW TO DEAL

The minimum investment in the UK public offer — for individuals only — will be 200 shares. With the first instalment costing 190p a share, the minimum payment will be £380. Under a separate offer, institutional investors will pay more per share. The exact price will not be announced until May 1.

The second instalment is payable on June 3, 1997, and will be the same for both the UK public offer and the international offer. Investors will have a better idea of the cost when the full prospectus is published on May 1.

Individuals can also apply for the retail tender, which is on the same terms as the international offer, does not qualify for discounts, has a minimum investment of £3,000 for the first instalment and is for people who want to buy large share allocations.

Share Shops will not charge a fee for investors applying for Railtrack shares, because they are paid a fee by the Government. However, there are varying charges when you come to sell your stock.

The Share Centre (0800 800008) is currently offering a "family" deal, whereby applications for shares from the same address are bundled together and can be sold for a single fee. The selling commission is 1 per cent, with a minimum charge of £7.50. Investors can also put their shares into a PEP. Barclays also offers this deal by post for a fee of 1 per cent, with a £7.50 minimum. City Deal (01708 742288) will charge a flat fee of £5 for dealing in Railtrack shares up to a value of £3,000, and £15 thereafter. This offer also applies to buying and selling shares in Eurotunnel and Stagecoach.

THE ADVICE

Stockbrokers and financial advisers are divided over the merits of the offer. Phillip Epsley, at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, says there are unanswered questions over the fate of the company's debt and how much the Government intends to subsidise Railtrack with public funds.

"The projections are very difficult at this stage as to the profit the company is going to make, but there is massive scope for cost-cutting," he said.

Mark Bolland, an independent financial adviser with Chamberlain de Broe, said: "The 14 per cent yield, if it materialises, is very good. Few investments, except perhaps foreign government bonds, come close to beating that. Railtrack is a huge landowner and its property interests should provide a good yield. However, you are still buying into open-ended liability. Lab-

our say the fabric of the network is too valuable to leave in private hands and although they will not renationalise it, they could make it very unattractive."

Matthew Orr, of Killik & Co, says the dividends look attractive on the partly paid shares.

He said: "In the long term, Railtrack could expand its retail development at stations and create large shopping centres at railway stations, as BAA did with airports."

"Political uncertainty is holding back the price, but even a 7 per cent yield is better than building society deposit rates currently available. However, if you have never invested in equities before, this share issue is not necessarily the right one for you. It is more suitable for someone who already has a large, well-balanced portfolio."

Having a say at the AGM

Back in 1962, the Jenkins committee on company law recommended, among much else, that a shareholder's appointed proxy should be able to speak at a company meeting, as well as cast the vote. A third of a century later, the Department of Trade and Industry is still agonising over this breathtaking innovation. *Shareholder Communications at the Annual General Meeting*, its new consultation paper, still implies this might be a step too far.

Can this be the same department that is gaily blowing up the gas industry, in the hope that the pieces might fall back in a theoretically better pattern? The difference is that details of company law are usually left to officials who perennally give great weight to any possible risk of reform. Anything goes when change has a political or bureaucratic priority. Whitehall caution has much to commend it, but there are limits.

Company meetings have decayed so far from their formal function of making directors accountable to shareholders that most companies think them an expensive waste of time. Fund managers boycott them. Most private investors do not bother because they know their voice rarely counts. Paul Myners' DTI-sponsored City/Industry working group was tempted to suggest abolishing compulsory AGMs. It stepped back, in favour of reform, perhaps only because of the inevitable political charge that small shareholders would be gagged.

The proxy issue has arisen anew because even funds now often hold shares via nominee custodians. They have suggested an alternative change to



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

allow them to exercise their rights. This problem should be dealt with by a specific new rule, but all minor measures to help investors overcome nominee problems should be tried. Unlike the gas revolution, they can always be reversed. The paper's main theme, reflecting a select committee report that spawned it, is to make it easier for shareholders to put down resolutions at company meetings and to ask questions that will get answers. There are cost issues here, if companies have to circulate resolutions at common expense, as they should, it costs a lot if they are too late to go out with the annual report. But that rules out resolutions stemming from the report. Perhaps these could be handled in advance-notice questions.

Compromises have to be made. Directors and officials worry more that rules friendlier to shareholders will be exploited by the special interest groups that disrupt annual meetings of many multinationals and high-profile companies.

This conflict cannot be ducked. Any democratic improvements for shareholders are bound to be exploited by troublemakers who have little interest in returns to investors. By the same immutable law, any restrictions imposed to curb the vexatious will be exploited by arrogant company boards to stifle the real voice of shareholders.

Risks are worth taking here too. The textbook vision of shareholder democracy has long vanished. The vast majority of shares are controlled by faceless corporate funds. Active private shareholders will use nominee accounts. Most of them will give up non-financial rights, faced with a choice between exercising them or saving money, unless companies offer tangible benefits.

If company boards are to be more accountable, it will be via some unalarming form of representative democracy, in which individuals use pressure groups to influence the votes of institutional shareholders. Investors will need to make sure these pressure groups reflect their views, not just the latest agitprop political correctness.

By this means, however, we might again allow boards to reflect the morals of their shareholders, not just the amorality of the economic man. At first, though, investor power would doubtless focus on the mean-spirited issue of directors' pay. Yet it might not be a bad idea if dozens of companies were confronted with identical resolutions asking that top pay be limited to, say, 25 times the lowest on the payroll — and fund managers had to explain if they opposed this humble request.

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Karen Zagor on making the most of money in matrimony

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL/POLYGRAM FILM INTERNATIONAL



If you get tongue-tied over your financial affairs, there's no need to be nervous. Help is at hand from independent advisers who urge newlyweds to list their pre-nuptial money arrangements

With all my worldly goods

PENSIONS

FIONA PRICE says this is one of the few areas where being married has a financial advantage. If your spouse is in a company pension scheme, you will almost certainly be entitled to a widow or widower's pension if your partner dies. This privilege is not always extended to unmarried partners. James Higgins suggests considering writing death benefits of pensions in trust, or at least nominating your spouse as a beneficiary so that any death benefits are paid quickly. If there is no trust or nomination of death benefit, there may be a delay in the survivor receiving benefits while the estate is in probate.

PROPERTY

IF both partners already own separate properties, they should each be able to continue to claim Mortgage Interest Relief At Source (MIRAS), provided one of the properties is sold within 12 months of vacating. If one of the properties is let, you will be able to claim the mortgage interest as an expense.

You cannot keep two properties as your main residence indefinitely. Unless you sell one of the properties within three years, you will have to pay Capital Gains Tax on the sale. A main residence is exempt from this liability.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, boldly proclaimed in the last Budget: "It is a myth that the tax system penalises marriage and that single people are better off than married couples. Any young couple contemplating living together and starting a family will pay less tax by getting married."

Advisers at Fiona Price & Partners would beg to differ. Eileen Dougherty, a tax manager, says: "The advantages of marriage nowadays in tax terms are geared towards relatively wealthy people. They are not much use to ordinary working people on average salaries with an average mortgage and a family to support."

There was a time when couples who

got married in the waning days of the tax year were able to collect two full years' worth of the married couple's allowance. The recent surge in summer and autumn weddings may be a result of less generous tax laws. There are no longer any tax advantages to getting married in the spring, while the married couple's allowance has been whittled back to almost nothing.

James Higgins of Chamberlain De Broe, the independent financial adviser, urges couples to concentrate on the "until death (or divorce) do us part" element of the union. "Financial planning needs to be done on a regular basis so that the couple know exactly where they are in terms of assets and debts. Many marriages end in divorce simply

because the couple's finances have got out of hand and the couple find themselves heavily in debt. At the same time, flexibility needs to be maintained because anything that is in a sole name can result in difficulty in access for the surviving partner if one dies."

Fiona Price & Partners suggests that newlyweds start out by listing their existing financial arrangements, as pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and any debts. From there, you can decide what your financial priorities are and how to go forward. And remember to tell parents and grandparents that they can give you up to £5,000 and £2,500, respectively, free of tax.

no debt, no children and no mortgage may not need insurance. Younger couples might consider joint lives first death cover. It is also worth exploring insurance on a guaranteed insurability basis, which allows you to get cover if you suffer a heart attack or some other event that might make you uninsurable. To choose a policy, get quotes for single life, joint life first death and family income benefit, which is useful for families with young children. If the cost difference is not substantial between two single life and one joint life policy, it is worth considering the single policies which will pay on the death of each partner, providing more cover.

WILLS

AGAIN, being married is an advantage. Spouses do not have to pay inheritance tax when their partner dies, and everything that is held in joint names will pass directly to the survivor. You can also write a will stating that your spouse will inherit everything. Without a will, however, a spouse with no children will only be entitled to the personal chattels, plus a cash sum of £125,000 and a half share of any residue.

Wills are also essential for people with families. They are the only way to determine where the assets will go. Wills allow you to appoint guardians for children. It is relatively inexpensive to have a will drawn up, and can save years of heartache later.

Wills do need to be reviewed regularly as wishes and circumstances will almost inevitably change.

LIFE ASSURANCE

LIFE Assurance is a necessary evil if the death of one partner would cause financial hardship for the other. Couples should take into account their debts and family needs. A couple with

INVESTMENTS

SINCE the advent of independent taxation, couples have been able to take advantage of their separate status. Tax on savings and investment income is usually paid at the highest rate, so a higher-rate taxpayer will pay 40 per cent. Fiona Price estimates that a 40 per cent taxpayer can save £7,570 a year on transferred assets of £27,825.

All dividends and interest from gilts and deposits should be paid to the partner with the lowest marginal tax rate. If one spouse is a non-taxpayer, savings income can be paid gross after filling out a R85 form from a bank or building society. With capital gains tax, transfers can be made between spouses at any time without tax liability.

JOINT ACCOUNTS

JOINT bank accounts are a mixed blessing for married couples. Their prime advantage is that they make day-to-day bill paying infinitely easier. But there are certain dangers. Couples are jointly liable for debts and overdrafts, which can be an issue if you are married to a profligate spender. Also, if one partner is self-employed or has a blighted credit history, the couple may find it difficult to get a mortgage. A solution is to have a joint account for bills, and to maintain separate accounts to benefit from one partner's more solid credit

record. The main problem with single accounts is that spouses cannot get information about the accounts and, in the event of death, funds in your spouse's account will be frozen until probate is finished.

ALLOWANCES AND TAX

MARRIED couples are entitled to tax relief of only £268 a year, or 15 per cent of the £1,790 allowance for the 1996/97 tax year. The allowance can be split between the couple or used by either husband or wife, depending on

The first vital financial steps if marriage starts to fail

Karen Zagor on how to take the unnecessary pain out of a divorce settlement

THIS week the Duke and Duchess of York joined about half of the married population by filing for divorce. Like thousands of other separating couples, the Yorks must begin the long process of untangling their joint finances and reaching an acceptable settlement. Financially, divorce is remarkably similar to marriage. In both instances, couples must look at their pensions, savings, investments, insurance policies and wills.

Frances Hughes, head of family law at solicitors Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, says: "There can be great disadvantages to applying for divorce absolute before you have sorted the finances." Once divorced you will not, for example, be entitled to a widow or widower's pension and could be left in dire straits unless provisions were made before the divorce was granted.

If your marriage breaks down, your first financial step should be to close all joint accounts before your partner has a chance to embark on a spending spree. Similarly, joint credit cards, loans, overdrafts and HP agreements should be separated where possible.

If you are not a joint owner or tenant of the family home, Ms Hughes suggests putting a charge on the home without necessarily telling your partner. She says: "You are entitled to register your right to occupy at any time. This is a basic protection step which will prevent the home being remortgaged or transferred without your knowledge."

Ms Hughes notes that the courts take a dim view of people who try to hide assets from their partner during divorce proceedings. "The courts' view is that the status quo should be maintained during proceedings. If you think your partner may try to dissipate assets, you should see a solicitor immediately. You can get an order for assets not to be moved and if they already have, you can still have the assets frozen."

It may well pay to get independent financial advice before accepting a financial settlement. Given the acrimonious nature of many divorces, it is more important than ever to make sure that your best interests are

being considered. If you will be relying on maintenance payments to survive, it is a good idea to consider taking out an insurance policy to protect payments in the event that your ex becomes ill, or dies.

Married women have, traditionally, left themselves vulnerable by relying on their husbands' pension. Women in England and Wales may want to wait until July 1 to file for divorce. From then, pension payments will have to be split on retirement and there is pressure on the Government to further amend the rules to split pension rights at the time of divorce. In Scotland, pensions are already included in divorce settlements.

Legal bills can mount quickly during a divorce. You will be charged for every letter and telephone call. One solution is to contact the Solicitors' Family Law Association which will put you in touch with a lawyer whose aim is to diffuse anger and to keep the legal bills in check.

Next year's new laws should end the quickie divorce by ensuring couples are only granted a divorce after a year. It is hoped that during this waiting period the battling spouses will have a chance to cool down, untangle their finances and to avoid expensive courtroom battles over children and possessions, perhaps with the help of mediation. "It is a very good idea to have counselling in tandem," says Ms Hughes. "This encourages people to come to sensible decisions along the way. Some people are forced through circumstances into proceedings before they are emotionally ready. Where possible, you should wait to file for divorce until you are ready and can make more rational decisions which cost you less money."

Divorce is also an important time to consider your will. Your circumstances and desires will almost certainly have changed, and you may want to make provision for your ex. If you part on amicable terms, National Family Mediation: 0171 323 5993; the Family Mediation Association: 01273 74750; Solicitors' Family Law Association: 01689 850227.



The Duchess settlement

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Parents must make sure school fee sums add up



Not everyone has to pay school fees but the Revenue's decision to tax educational trusts will bring hardship to those who do

According to school fee specialists, it is never too early to start saving for education. The move will add substantially to the costs of private education in an environment where school fees are already increasing at a rate far above inflation. Many financial advisers will assume annual rises of 10 per cent when planning for private education. They believe that those budgeting for seven years of educational fees, for example, should count on spending at least £100,000 per child. It is also becoming more common for parents to consider saving to help their children through further education. The cutbacks in student grants have made it necessary for parents to give their offspring extra financial help for college or university.

Educational trusts have become far less attractive after the move by the Charity Commission to remove their charitable status from the beginning of next month. The Revenue has ruled that this means trusts can no longer distribute their income tax-free.

For some parents this will mean finding around 8 per cent more for their children's education. Alternative funding depends on whether lump sums are used, or whether savings are made out of regular income. Financial advisers point out that in reality many parents will be unable to meet all their school fees planning needs from savings and investments alone.

Fiona Price, of Fiona Price & Partners, said: "It is unlikely that savings will be able to pay for all school fees. When it comes to the time, usually extra funding from capital or income is needed."

Personal equity plans. Peps allow up to £9,000 a year to be invested - £6,000 in an ordinary Pep and £3,000 in a

single company plan. Any capital gains are tax free, as is any income. Peps are recommended for those who want to save regularly. Because they are vulnerable to stock market movements, Peps are only suitable for those who have at least five years to save. Jonathan Gumpel, financial planning director at Brooks Macdonald Gayer, said: "Peps are really long term. Two Peps funds, one for the husband and one for the wife can be used. Taking a long term view means that you do not have to be so worried about volatility."

Tessas. These plans can also provide a way of saving for school fees. Interest on the accounts is paid free of tax, and if savers opt for a fixed rate account, it is possible to predict exactly what the maturity value will be in five years' time. For example, £9,000 invested today in Bank of Ireland's 7.25 per cent fixed rate Tessa will pay out £12,890 in five years' time.

Unit trust savings plans. It is possible to save as little as £50 a month in a unit trust savings plan. Financial advisers recommend choosing trusts which have high growth potential.

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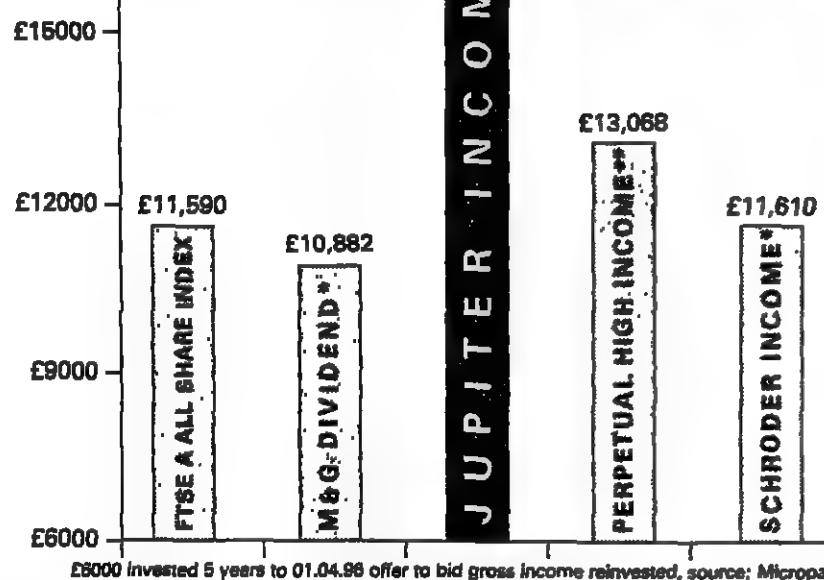
price at a set date. It is possible to invest in zeros which will mature on the dates when the school fees are needed. Mr Gumpel said: "The advantage of zero dividend shares is that they escape income tax." He recommends the shares of trusts from Ivory & Sime. Zeros are suitable for those with lump sums.

Educational trusts. These are trusts which, until the recent ruling, were deemed to be charities. They did not have to pay income tax on distributions. However, from April 1997, income will become taxable.

Educational trusts are offered by the School Fees Insurance Agency, Equitable Life and Sun Life. Financial advisers say that educational trusts are a third back to when there were far fewer tax-efficient investments available.

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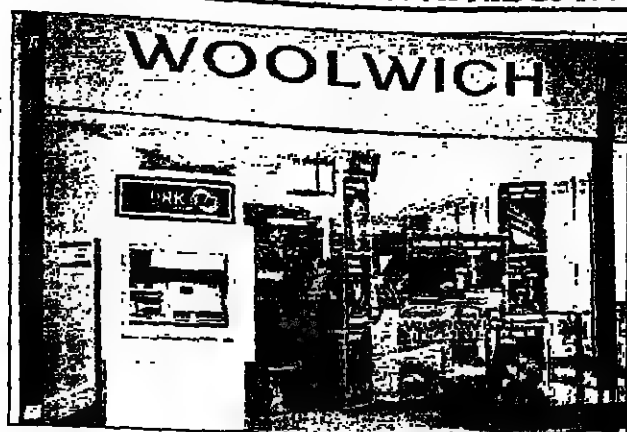
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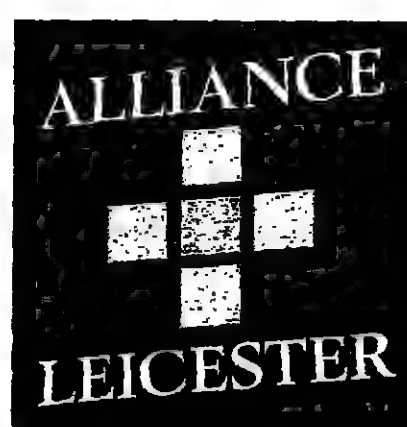
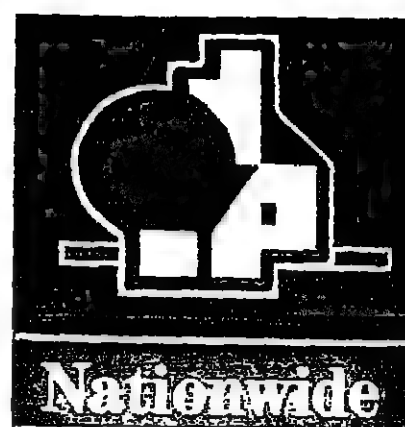


Is there a safe house for savers?

Sarah Jones
considers the
harsh climate
in which
savings rates
have wilted

Building societies are under the illusion that interest rates are like onions: they can peel away layer after layer. But it is investors who are left weeping as savings rates reach rock bottom, wiping out any benefit from the reduction in savings tax. With the latest parings, savers' rates have reached a 50-year low. A middle-band instant-access account currently pays 2.36 per cent net. That, according to Abbey National data, represents the lowest rates since the 1940s. Rates stood at 2.5 per cent net in 1941-45 and at 2.25 net in 1946-52. Mortgage rates are currently at a 30-year low.

This week, the Woolwich announced an immediate cut on the interest rates paid on its Prime Gold, Tessa and current accounts. The changes vary from tier to tier but, across the board, the average cut is 0.2 per cent. The hardest hit are those with balances of more than £50,000 and Tessa account holders who face cuts of 0.30 and 0.35 per cent. Accounts that are no longer



available to new investors, such as the Woolwich Investment Bond and the Premium Investment, Prime and Capital accounts, have also been cut.

A spokeswoman at the Woolwich said: "This follows from the last month's reduction in base rate. We are simply behind the pack on this particular change."

The move comes hot on the heels of the Halifax's decision to cut the rates on all its main savings accounts. The reduction means that the lowest gross rate for its Instant Liquid Gold account, for balances up to £500, slumps below 1 per cent to 0.75 per cent. For balances of more than £50,000, the Solid Gold gross monthly rate drops to 4.75 from 4.98 per cent. Even the Children's Account has not been spared, with a drop from 3.40 to 3.10 per cent.

The National & Provincial also this week reduced the interest rate on its six variable savings accounts by 0.25 per cent.

The Nationwide admits that its mortgage rate cut of 0.25 per cent from next month will have to be matched by a similar drop in savers' rates. That would bring the rate on its instant Cashbuilder account down to 3.15 per cent. The society points out that against the trend it increased rates by 0.25 per cent in February. True, but a month earlier its rates had gone down by 0.5 per cent.

This month, the amount of tax automatically deducted from building society and bank accounts has fallen to 30 per cent for lower and basic-rate taxpayers. For building societies, that seemed the perfect time to cut savers' rates.

A spokeswoman for the Halifax said: "Our latest change coincides with the new tax rates to make it easier for customers, since it avoids confusion. It also saves money since we don't have to publish two lots of rates."

The latest round of cuts has severely dented, and in some cases wiped out, any benefit from the tax reduction. Take a Halifax Liquid Gold account with a balance of £5,000. At last month's higher interest and tax rates, net annual

interest was £120; with the new lower interest and tax rates this month, it is £116. The seven million Liquid Gold account holders are even worse off if you take the interest rates at last November's Budget, when the new savings tax rate was announced. Then the net annual interest on the same account was £144.

Mark Bolland, of Chamberlain de Brue, the independent financial adviser, said: "Investors who rely on interest rates for their income are getting well and truly stuffed, though the societies would argue that they had to drop the interest rates anyway — so at least customers are not as badly off as they would have been under the higher tax rate."

"Savers are now in the worst possible world. They are sitting on low interest rates but it's too late to diversify. If you buy into equities and gilt now you will be going in at the top of the market and will suffer accordingly when interest rates rise again."

All savers can do is look around for the best rates. But even the better-paying postal accounts are taking a knock. This week saw a 0.25 per cent reduction on the Chelsea Building Society's postal Classic Account, following a general reduction in the society's investment rates earlier in the month.

Virgin Direct takes \$15m Pep transfers from rivals

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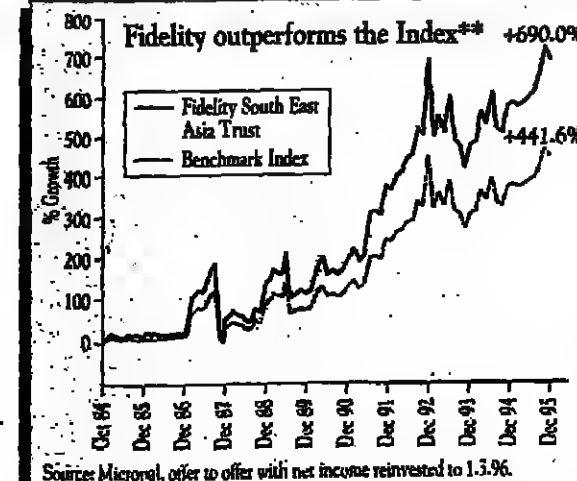
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Savers who object to plans by their building society or life company to demutualise were warned this week that they need to act immediately if they are to have any chance of changing the board's policy.

Increasing numbers of mutual organisations have admitted that they are looking at the possibility of becoming public companies or accepting outside bids.

One organisation, which trades in second-hand life policies, has even drawn up a "hit-list" of candidates it believes are most likely to be taken over within the next year. They include Scottish Amicable, Scottish Life, MGM Assurance, NPL, Guardian, and London & Manchester.

For policyholders and society members who are not convinced by offers of cash, shares or bonuses in return for surrendering their membership rights, timing is crucial, according to Marian Pell, a specialist in insurance law.

Mrs Pell, a senior partner with Herbert Smith, solicitors, says most policyholders do not move early enough in their attempt to overturn a board's decision. By the time they turn up to the extraordinary meeting to vote against the motion, it is usually too late.

"Historically, policyholders have failed to overturn the board's decision because they are not well enough organised," she said.

Unlike shareholders in plc meetings, there is no block vote and it is an uphill battle for policyholders to assemble



Mrs Pell has advice for dissenters, but concedes chances of victory are slim

If you wish to keep it mutual, act early

enough votes to force through an amendment. In addition, if the board is forced to drop its plans with no suitable alternative, it leaves the organisation in a vulnerable position and its business may have been damaged by the episode. She says that policyholders who feel unhappy about the proposals could in theory go to a third party and suggest it bids for

their organisation as soon as the demutualisation is made public. In practice, she acknowledges it is very difficult for individual policyholders to involve themselves in such negotiations.

Over the past two years plans by building societies and life companies to demutualise have left behind them a trail of disgruntled policyholders.

When Lloyds Bank took over the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society, borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing and savers whose name was second on the account lost out.

Thousands of savers with the Woolwich whose balances were less than £100 at the qualifying date are angry that they will miss out on pay-

ments, while Girobank savers will be excluded from the windfall to be paid out to Alliance & Leicester members when the society converts to a bank. Clerical Medical, the life insurer, had planned to exclude 30,000 savers whose life policies were due to mature before the end of the year, but had a change of heart after *The Times* drew attention to the unfairness of the decision.

Ultimately, Mrs Pell says, unhappy savers could take their case to the High Court, where demutualisation schemes of life companies have to be sanctioned.

When Provident Mutual was taken over by General Accident, two dissenters complained to the judge. No such action has ever succeeded.

Mrs Pell says that although building societies and life companies are entitled to say they are committed to mutuality, they are also obliged to consider every serious offer that comes along. It is the duty of directors to act in the best interests of the organisation.

One Woolwich saver who is trying to take action early is David Adams, 51, an associate director of Amec, the construction company. He withdrew £750 from his account just before the qualifying date, leaving him with a balance of less than £100 and disqualifying him from any bonus to be paid out when the society converted to a bank. He believes his loyalty should be rewarded and is to hold a meeting in Oxford on May 11 for all disgruntled savers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Undecided Top 20 decide to tighten up

As bid speculation focuses increasingly on the medium-sized building societies, more have raised their minimum investment levels to discourage new customers (Anne Ashworth writes). But it may not have the desired effect, as Birmingham Midshires found this week.

On Monday, it raised its minimum to £1,500 in its 17 city-centre branches, and to £500 elsewhere. But customers continued to crowd in.

The Chelsea followed suit, closing three share accounts. Two of these, Capital Account and Instant Option, will be relaunched as share accounts with a minimum of £2,500.

Three other share accounts remain open but the entry cost is steep: Bonus Bond (minimum £5,000), 120-Day Account (£5,000) and Monthly Income Shares (£5,000).

The Lambeth, the 30th-ranked society, now has just one share account open to new investors (minimum £2,500).

Listed here are minimum investment on share accounts at the top 20 societies which remain (apparently) wedded to mutuality.

Nationwide	£300
Bradford & Bingley	£500
Cheltenham & Gloucester	£500
Chelsea	£1,000
Birmingham Midshires	£1,500
Portsmouth	£1,500
Coventry	£1,500
Shepherd	£2,500
Lancashire & Yorkshire	£2,500
Cheltenham & Gloucester	£2,500
Derbyshire	£2,500
Cheshire	£2,500
Northampton & Peterborough	£2,500
West Bromwich	£2,500

* Special mutuality scheme, one also Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire, Coventry.
* City centre, £500 elsewhere.
* Outside Midlands branch area, £100 within area.
* Outside North West (under review), £100 within area.
* £500 in society's operating area.

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THAN IN ALL THE REST OF
THE WEEK."

Gerry Robinson
Group Chief Executive, Granada Group PLC.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Who benefits in the great building society lottery

Anne Ashworth
explains the winners and losers in the race to strip away mutuality

In a mood rivaling the excitement of National Lottery rollover week, the shrinking of the building society sector continued apace with the Bank of Ireland's £400 million bid for Bristol & West, the ninth largest society.

This move means that any one fortunate enough to have been a member of the six societies becoming banks or succumbing to bids would now be looking at winnings of roughly £6,000. The latest takeover leaves only the Nationwide, the Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Yorkshire of the ten biggest societies resolved (so they say) to retain mutual status. The rest are either becoming banks or being taken over.

In all cases, borrowers benefit, but only savers in share accounts with voting rights join the fun. Deposit accounts are excluded.

The Halifax

The background: The first flotation deal to be announced, and something of a yardstick for the rest. A £10 billion share debut is planned for mid-1997, after a spring vote. Average estimated payout: £700.

Beneficiaries: Ten million members of the merged Halifax and Leeds societies.

The payout: Qualifying investing and borrowing members with balances of at least £100 at November 25, 1994, will receive a basic distribution of Halifax shares. They must maintain the £100 balance until conversion. Qualifying investing members of two years' standing on the conversion date (yet to be set) with balances of £1,000-£50,000 will receive the variable distribution based on their balance. The number of extra shares will be calculated by reference to the lowest total balance on the account at midnight on two reference dates. The first is November 25, 1994. The other date will be announced in advance to allow investors to replenish their accounts. They can withdraw cash in the interim but they must maintain a balance of at least £100. Helpline 0800 888844.



The Woolwich

The background: Despite the sudden exit of Peter Robinson, chief executive, the society still plans a £3 billion flotation next autumn. However, another bidder could intervene. Potential aggressors include BAT, Midland, Prudential, Royal Bank of Scotland or a European or Australian bank. This could improve the payouts. If the original scheme goes ahead, anyone who did not have £100 invested last December 31 will be excluded — a decision that has upset thousands of investors who had transferred cash into cheque accounts, allowing their share accounts to fall below £100. These cheque accounts do not carry voting rights. Aggrieved investors have formed an action group (see page 34). Average estimated payout: £1,000.

Beneficiaries: Four million. The payout: There will be a basic distribution to all members with the society at December 31, 1995, and who remain until conversion. There will also be an additional variable distribution for certain investors based on their balance at December 31, 1995, and at another date to be announced retrospectively. Helpline 0345 022033.

Alliance & Leicester

The background: The owner of Girobank intends to become a public company by next spring. Girobank customers will not share in the largesse as they are not members of the society. This has caused irritation. Peter White, chief executive, says details will be available when the deal is approved by the Building Societies Commission. Average payout: £800. **Beneficiaries:** Three million. The payout: Free shares will be distributed to borrowing and saving members at December 31, 1995, who remain until conversion. In a significant concession, savers who did not have the all-important £100 invested can replenish accounts. But they must act at least 56 days before the voting date, expected in the autumn. Helpline: 0345 221144.

National & Provincial

The background: N&P members will receive their loot from Abbey National's £1.3 billion takeover of their society in September. **Beneficiaries:** 1.4 million. Average payout: £1,000.

The payout: Borrowers and savers at April 28, 1995, and December 31, 1995, will get £500 of free Abbey shares (basic distribution). Those on the books at December 31, 1993, get £750 (cash or shares) and 7 per cent of the lower of their account balances at April 23, 1995, and at midnight, August 4, 1996, up to £50,000 (variable distribution). Helpline: 0345 697349.

Bristol & West

The background: Bristol & West will become the Bank of Ireland's specialist savings and mortgage division. Members who were on the books at April 15, 1996, will benefit.

Average payout: £1,000. **Beneficiaries:** 1.1 million. The payout: Savers at December 31, 1994 (with £100 or more by April 15, 1996) will get at least a fixed £500 in cash, plus a variable distribution related to balances up to £10,000. Those with less than £100 on April 15 can top up their accounts by December 31 but will only qualify for a fixed sum of at least £250. The 60,000 savers who hurriedly joined since January, and other newcomers, will get only the basic £250 B&W preference shares. Helpline: 0800 886633.

Northern Rock

The background: A £50 balance on April 2 will allow you to benefit from the £1 billion flotation. Conversion is expected in the autumn. But the account must be topped up to £100 by the end of this year.

Beneficiaries: 1.3 million. **Average payout:** £700-£1,000. The payout: A flat distribution of shares seems likely. Qualifying borrowers must have £1 in mortgage debt on April 2 and December 31, 1996, and at the date of conversion. Qualifying savers must have had £50 at April 2, 1996, and £100 on December 31, 1996, and have £1 balance at conversion. Helpline: 0345 488666.

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How to participate

1. All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day using the form (right) - then on the day itself, submit the results.
2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT, as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 10th September 1996.
3. The top five scoring golfers in your golf day's individual competition - including up to three guests (your spouse) - will receive trophies to represent your company (as a team) at one of the Mees Pierson regional finals in October 1996.
4. Five teams or four individuals, if there are appropriate circumstances, will receive the 25 trophies entered in your region, ready for a regional final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, to be played on a day TV broadcast.
6. Golf days registered after 10th September or played after 10th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

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- Your golf day featured in The Times 'Weekend golf days' feature.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times 'golf day results' section.
- A set of four promotional travel trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complimentary copies of the official Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge programme for each of the twelve regions.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final, to be held in November 1996, at the Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, to be played on a day TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organisers.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is governed by the Rules for players of corporate golf days (see page 37) and the Rules for players of corporate golf days (see page 37).

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WATERFORD CRYSTAL

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Hold it, dear... it isn't burying its head.

The small print warns that
it may not have one



Not a charitable word for building societies

From Mr T. Walliss

Sir, I continue to read in your pages, with interest and some sympathy, correspondence from individuals missing out on bonuses resulting from building society takeovers, flotations, etc. I have not read lately, I think, from anyone representing a charity. I cite one small situation in which I am involved.

I run a building society account on behalf of a Boys' Brigade unit. So far, it has attracted no bonus from the

takeover of the Southdown by the Leeds, the amalgamation of the Leeds with the Halifax, and shortly from the flotation of the Northern Rock. Just exactly what is the difference between our money and that of others? A director of one of the societies mentioned told me not to complain as "you do get your interest tax-free".

Floreat, floreat!
Yours faithfully,
TED WALLISS,
3 Claremont Gardens,
Epsom Downs, Surrey.

Small print

From Mr S. Kitchiner

Sir, Further to your comment on ostrich schemes, I would like to share with you the principle that guides me when I make my investment decisions.

I am only a working-class pensioner, so I have to be very wary how I look after what little savings I have. As soon as I see an asterisk in an advertisement, I never read any further. I already know that the information small print below which they do not want us to see will show that the investment is not such a good deal after all.

Yours faithfully,
STUART KITCHINER,
45 Station Road,
Plitwick,
Bedford.

A different line

From Mr B. Crawford

Sir, I have just asked Direct Line for a mortgage quote for a house in Northern Ireland, only to be told that it quotes only for England, Scotland and Wales. Ireland, North and South, is classified as the same by them, and is considered different from the rest of the UK. Perhaps we could get Direct Line to take over the Department of Agriculture and award Northern Ireland separate status from the rest of the UK, therefore allowing the export of our beef to mainland Europe and beyond, or perhaps Direct Line does not consider the citizens of Northern Ireland to be British.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY CRAWFORD,
17 Saul Road, Downpatrick.



Brigade of blues: Ted Walliss with his son Gareth

Check the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep

Karen Zagor on suppositions by
older investors seeking solid returns

How good is the guarantee on your corporate bond Pep? That is a question that few investors ask, but that financial advisers feel is important when choosing a place to put your money.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, of advisers Towry Law, notes that older people, interested in making provision for themselves and their partner, tend to be attracted to guaranteed products. These people assume that any investments will pass on to their spouse, should they die during the term of the product. Yet in many cases the guarantee on a corporate bond Pep dies with the original holder.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says: "There are legal problems with keeping guarantees after death, yet there is no warning in the literature that when you die the guarantee lapses."

After pressure for clarification from Towry Law, Sun

Alliance has now said that it will be possible for a beneficiary to receive a guarantee on its high income bond trust. The bond promises initial tax-free income of about 7 per cent a year, plus the guarantee of the full return of capital and guarantee premium at the end of six years. Minimum investment is £3,000 with a guarantee premium of £150.

Sun Alliance has said it will issue a new capital protection insurance certificate to beneficiaries, on request, to apply to the original unit. This will guarantee the additional payment on the sixth anniversary of the original investment. The conditions will be the same as the original investment.

Beneficiaries should note that

any payment under the insurance to the unit-holder is likely to be a disposal for capital gains tax purposes. In addition, the capital protection insurance will cease immediately if the new unit-holder dies or transfers all, or some, of the units to another person before the sixth anniversary of the original investment. In contrast, Mr Levett-Scrivener notes that Marks & Spencer does not make provision to transfer the guarantee on its Guaranteed Capital Investment Plan.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says investors should make sure the guarantee is worth paying for before buying a guaranteed product. With a capital growth plan, the charges for

protection may not be worthwhile because over five years the stock market is likely to move higher. Similarly, if a guarantee on a capital growth product lapses on death, it is probably not worth worrying about. But guarantees on income products are important.

An intriguing new Pep from HSBC Asset Management is being launched. The fund will be set up as a traded company, thus meeting the requirements of a single company Pep. But the company's shares will reflect the movements of the FT-SE. Investors will get the security of a diversified investment, while using their maximum single and general allowance of £9,000. The HSBC Pep Plus is a growth fund, which promises full return of capital if the market falls. If it rises, investors will benefit from the growth in the FT-SE 100, plus a 33 per cent bonus of the growth achieved.

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*Source: Microcap, buying price to selling price, gross income reinvested from launch to latest available date on Microcap to 15.4.96. Schroder UK Growth Fund plc 1st out of 9 since 2.5.94. Schroder UK Enterprise Fund 1st out of 105 since 1.8.88 over five years. 3rd out of 128. Schroder Income Fund 1st out of 6 since 3.1.72 over five years 5th out of 73. Schroder Smaller Companies Fund 1st out of 13 since 1.6.79 over five years 34th out of 56.
Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and relief from, taxation may change. Tax relief is referred to as those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

Small print

A different line

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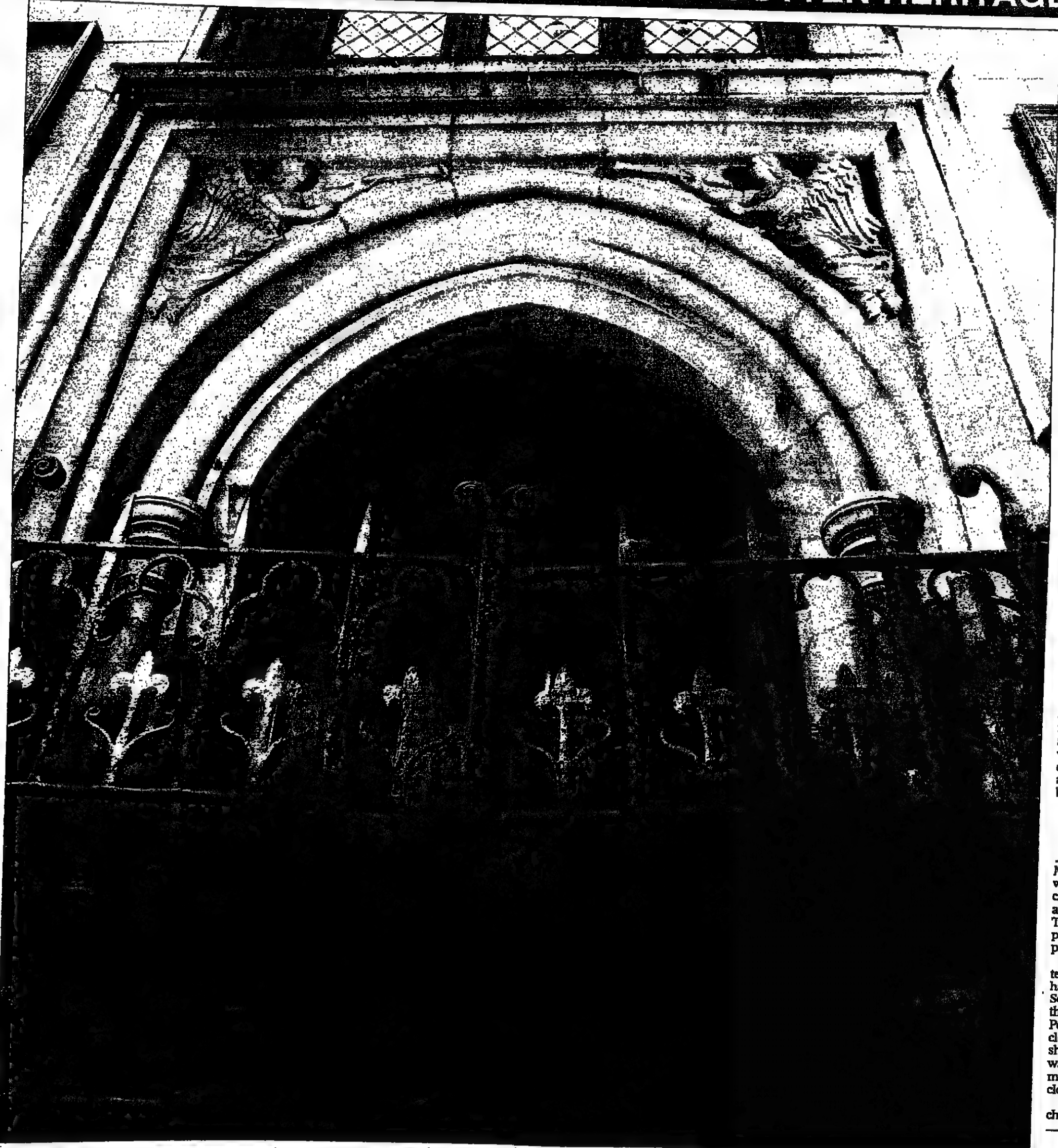
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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

HOW TO FIND OUR FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

by John Martin Robinson



Last summer, with a group of friends, I made a long journey to see St Mary's Church at Whalley in Lancashire, described by Pevsner as being "exceptionally rich in furnishings and especially woodwork" and where the star attraction is the set of early 15th-century choir stalls with carved misericords, rescued from Whalley Abbey at the Dissolution of the monasteries.

At 4.15 on a Saturday afternoon the church was locked. We went to a small, modern house some distance away to ask for the key where we were met by a woman who told us she was busy baking a cake and could not open the church for us, nor could she let us borrow the key.

The picture of church-visiting is not generally so frustrating. While it is no longer possible, as it was 30 years ago, to drive around the country and find all the churches open in daylight hours, with a little homework (see page 2) the determined sightseer can gain access to many churches which, despite the destruction of the Reformation and Civil War, contain medieval works of art of superb quality, some of which are shown in the first part of BBC2's *A History of British Art* tomorrow at 7.30pm.

More than any other old buildings, these churches are the tangible expression and receptacle of English history: treasure houses of woodcarving, painting, sculpture, furniture, books, needlework, silver plate and stained glass. Moreover many of these objects have the unique character of works of art used and cherished and forming part of their original architectural setting, rather than being isolated, out of context, in a museum. The problem is that when churches are locked against thieves and vandals many seem generally inaccessible to the public.

The closure of churches is usually blamed on the demands of insurance, but this is often just a lazy excuse. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, set up in the 19th century to insure all the Church of England, in fact encourages parochial councils and church incumbents to keep churches open and attended during daylight hours as the best means of protecting buildings, subject to sensible precautions and the safe-keeping of valuable moveable objects. Locked and deserted churches are much more likely to attract vandalism, arson and theft than open, busy-looking buildings.

Many of the greatest medieval town churches, such as St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol or St Mary Magdalene in Newark, are usually open on weekdays when there are vergers present, cleaners at work, regular midday services and the general bustle of ecclesiastical life. The picture at weekends, which is when most people do their "church-crawling", is more patchy and varies from county to county.

Churches in the Midlands in particular tend to be inaccessible: Hawton in Nottingham, with its magnificent Decorated Easter Sepulchre, or Strelley near Nottingham, with the tombs of the Strelley family and a good Perpendicular rood screen, always seem to be closed when I try to visit them. Northamptonshire, too, which is criss-crossed by motorways and new roads facilitating the movement of the criminal classes, also tends to close its churches most of the time.

In East Anglia, however, where the churches, thanks to medieval wool prosperity,

Continued on page 2

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INSIDE STORY

The battle is on to keep the country's finest old churches in repair, open and used

Continued from page 1

contain the finest medieval woodwork in the country — angel roofs, fretted and painted screens, carved benches, towering font covers — many of the rural churches are open at weekends. This is partly due to the activity of the Norfolk Historic Churches Trust under the direction of the redoubtable Bill Harrod, who for decades has campaigned to keep old churches there in repair, open and used.

Some of the finest Perpendicular rood screens in the country are in Norfolk, such as that at Attleborough, which retains its original left and medieval colouring. Barton Turf, where the painted saints and heavenly hierarchies were cleaned in 1978 or Ranworth, the finest of all.

Then there are the tall wooden font covers at Sall and Trunch, the brass eagle lectern of 1518 at Wigganham St Mary, and the 15th-century stained glass at South Creak, near Burnham Market, and much else. Nearly every church in East Anglia has some medieval treasures.

On the other side of the country in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire a new initiative, "Through the Church Door", started two years ago, organises and advertises regular opening times. In England at present there is no countrywide information available as to when historic churches are open, though the Scottish Churches Scheme has published such a booklet for all denominations.

Through the Church Door, however, has produced the Country Church Visitors' Handbook for its four counties which includes regular opening times and, most usefully, contact telephone numbers for churches so that it is possible to plan a visit. This is particularly important because churches such as Kilpeck and Eardisley, both near Hereford, have some of the best Norman sculpture in the country, and Malvern Priory the most complete sequence of 15th-century stained-glass windows in England.

A similar initiative is planned for the diocese of Truro in Cornwall, subject to the money being found, and it is to be hoped that eventually such handbooks will be available for the whole country.

The production of such handbooks might be something English Heritage should consider financing.

An admirable body which publishes county leaflets, but only for the churches in its possession, is the Churches Conservation Trust, formerly the Redundant Churches Fund. Set up under the Pastoral Measure of 1968, the trust

WHERE TO FIND THE TREASURES

THE ARTWORKS shown right and their locations, listed below, feature in the first part of A History of British Art, to be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 7.30pm, and in Andrew Graham-Dixon's book of the same name (BBC Books, £25). There is also a BBC booklet to accompany the series. On the Trail of British Art, which is available from BBC Education History of British Art, PO Box 7, London W5 2GO, with a cheque for £2.50 payable to BBC Education.

1 FOLKIS EASTER CHURCH
near Dundee (01382 580210).
Can be viewed by appointment.

2 THE LADY CHAPEL
Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire (01353 667735).

Open daily, summer 7am-7pm; winter 7.30am-6pm. Entry fee of 50p includes access to the whole cathedral. Tours available.

3 CHURCH OF ST HELEN
Ranworth, Norfolk (01603 270 263).

Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

4 CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE
Withersdale, Suffolk (01379 586343).

Open daily until dusk, donations welcome.

5 ST PETER'S CHURCH
Wenhaston, Suffolk (01502 478351).

Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

6 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Blythburgh, Suffolk (01502 478458).

Open daily 9am-dusk, donations welcome.

7 CHURCH OF ST MARY
Ufford, Suffolk (01394 480935).

Open during daylight hours, donations welcome.

8 THE MERCER'S HALL
The Mercer's Company, London EC2 (0171-726 4891).

The figure of Christ in the hall can be viewed by appointment only. Contact Ursula Carlyle.

9 ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
Wells, Somerset (01748 676908).

Open daily until 5pm, donations welcome.

10 CHURCH OF ST ANDREW
Cullompton, Devon (01884 33248).

Open during daylight hours.

11 EXETER CATHEDRAL
Open daily until dusk, but the gallery, visible from the cathedral, can be visited by appointment only. For appointments and information on tours available telephone 01392 55573.

12 ST MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH
Abergavenny, Gwent (01753 683166).

Will complete a six-year restoration in October 1996. Open daily 10am-noon, and 2-4pm.

13 CHURCH OF MERTHYR ISSUI
Partrishow (Pabiol), Powys, Wales (01673 810348).

Open daily, donations welcome.

The Country Church Visitors' Handbook is obtainable from Through the Church Door, The Hay Loft, The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Slouion, Worcestershire WR7 4RE (01905 841854).

County leaflets are available from The Churches Conservation Trust, 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH (0171-936 2285).

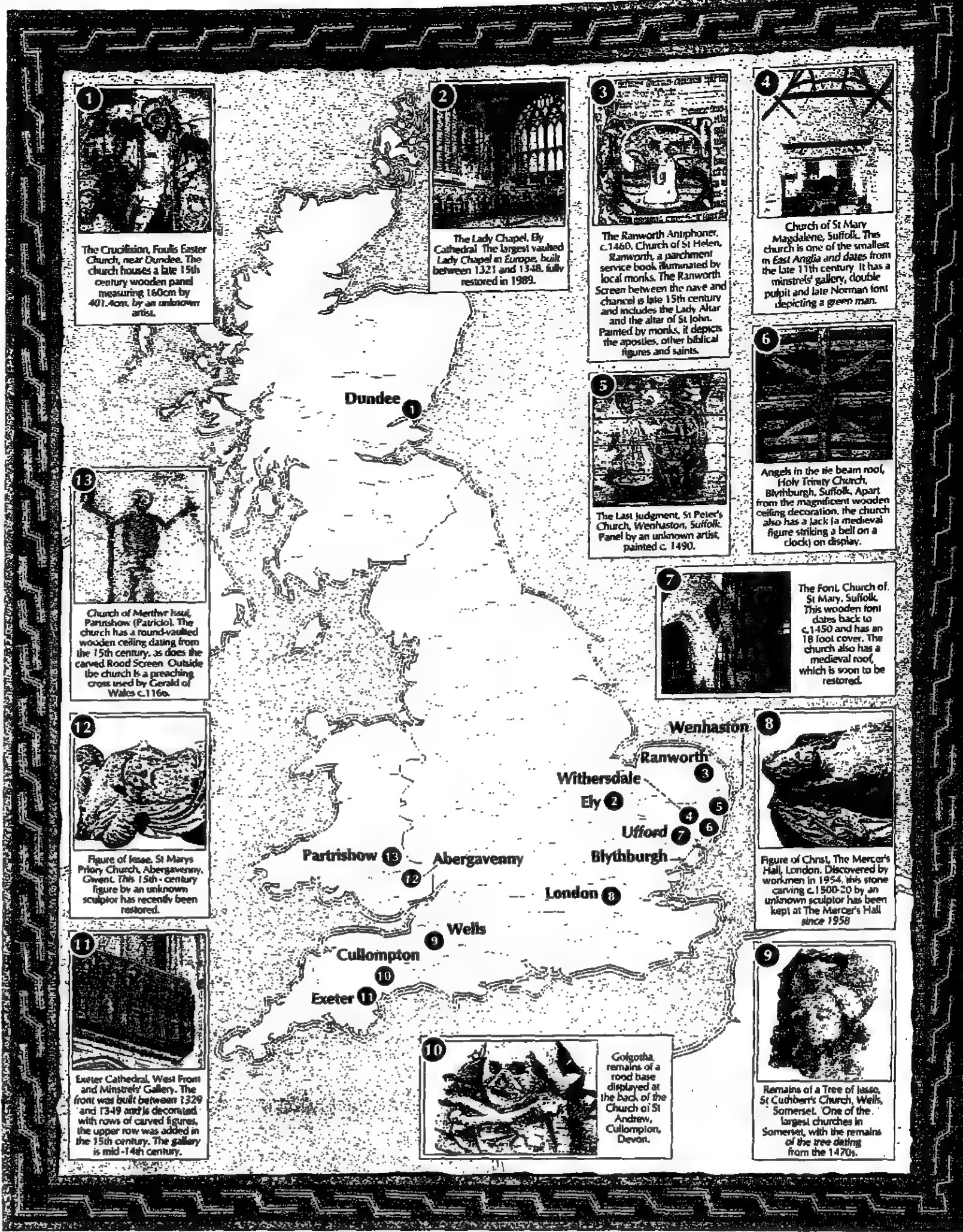
The Open Churches Trust is c/o The Really Useful Group, 22 Tower Street, London WC2E 9NS (0171-240 0890).

The front cover photograph shows the Hart Street entrance of St Olave's in the City of London. Samuel Pepys, who is buried in the church, saved it from the fire of London by persuading the Navy to blow up all nearby houses. Inside, there is a 15th-century doorcase with the original door. On weekdays the church is usually open 9am-6pm and on Sundays 11am-12.30pm. The rector, John Cowling, will sometimes admit visitors outside those times if he is available. St Olave's, 8 Hart Street, London EC3.

AMANDA LOOSE

preserves churches of historic interest which are no longer in regular parish use and now has 301 churches, the great majority of which are pre-Reformation. The trust is a charity receiving 70 per cent of its funding from the Department of National Heritage and 30 per cent from the Church Commissioners. The trust's more important churches are regularly open, and for the others there is an efficient system of voluntary keyholders whose addresses are posted in the church porch.

Where churches are in the grounds of a great house open to the public, as at Kedleston, Derbyshire, with its medieval tombs of the Curzon family, they are open at the same time as the house. This often also applies to other churches in the grounds of country houses. At Arundel, West Sussex, for instance, the Fitzalan Chapel, with its superb medieval tombs, unique iron rood screen and four medieval altars, is open at the same time as the castle on Sunday



afternoons, as well as weekdays between April and October. In 1994 Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber founded the Open Churches Trust with the aim of opening, at regular hours, important historic churches previously shut. The pilot scheme comprises 19 churches in London, Liverpool and Suffolk including, in Suffolk, the notable church of St Nicholas, Denston, with its splendid 15th-century fittings — carved screens, stalls and rood beam.

A further 20 churches are to join the scheme next month in the dioceses of Southwark, Manchester and Durham. Eventually it is hoped to extend the programme to the

whole country if matching funds can be found. As a result of private initiatives of this type, more of England's incomparable treasures of medieval art are becoming available. But much more could be done to put them on the map.

At your service, page 15

Cover photograph by STEVEN HARVEY
Graphic on this page by DUNCAN STEWART
Graphic pictures: Anthony F. Kirsling, Eileen Tweedy, Nicholas Turpin, Nicholas Tilly and Crown Copyright

Plovers lighten gloom

Feather report

THERE are about 20 species of bird that can be considered regular summer visitors to Britain, and at this time our whole landscape would be quite different without them — swallows and swifts in the sky, cuckoos calling, the rich songs of blackcaps and garden warblers in the foliage, wheatears and whinchats darting about on the moors.

Some species have become scarcer in recent years. We have to lament the musical lamentations of the nightingale, now heard only in a few places in the South East, and many people are waiting to see if the house martins will come back to their eaves again this year.

The soft purring of the turtle dove is also now quite a rare sound in the English hedgerows, as the alarming report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on bird decline emphasised this week.

However, there has been one notable success story in recent years: that of the little ringed plover.

There was great excitement on the shores of a reservoir in Tring, Hertfordshire, in 1938, when a pair of these hitherto rare birds was found nesting there. Three pairs were found in 1944, and since the Second World War their numbers have steadily risen. Now, about 1,000 pairs return regularly each spring, and spread throughout the country. This year they seem to have done it again.

Their slightly larger relative, the ringed plover, is quite common on the coast. The little ringed plovers are nearly all found inland. On the Continent, they nest on the pebbly shores of rivers, but here it is flooded gravel pits that have given them their opening.

week. I was watching some lapwings quarrelling on a sandspit when suddenly I saw another movement at the edge of it. It was a little ringed plover running past on twinkling feet. A moment later another swept through the air, made several zigzag turns above the water, and alighted beside the first one.

Little ringed plovers are delightful birds, with their rapid movements both on



Little ringed plovers are now regular visitors

land and above it, and their masked faces. They are not easy to distinguish from ringed plovers except in flight, when the ringed plover reveals a distinct white wing-bar, while the little ringed plover is plain brown above.

In flight, too, they each have a distinctive call. The little ringed plover's is a sharp "tear", while its cousin's is a musical "toocoo". The sounds may not be very different, transliterated like this, but they cannot be confused once you have heard them.

Humans, far from harming

the species. Not only have they provided this new gravel-pit habitat for them, but the birds positively like nesting where there are workmen about, because predators such as hobbies and sparrowhawks will not come near.

In fact, their whole domestic economy is affected in an interesting way by questions of security. They nest on shingle or gravel, hollowing out a shallow space with their beaks, and lining it with small pebbles. In this setting their four mottled eggs, laid in the shape of a cross, blend well with their surroundings. Some waders line their ground nests with dry grass, but that would make the little ringed plovers' nests on the bare stones too conspicuous to predatory gulls and crows.

However, heat leaks away very easily from the eggs on this stony bed, and they cannot be left for long. So both sexes sit on the eggs, constantly taking short turns, and feeding intensively in between in order to keep up their own warmth.

Moreover, the eggs are relatively large for such a small bird, and take a long time — almost four weeks — to hatch, because the young must be well-enough developed to run for cover as soon as they break through the shells.

After that, the young quite quickly start feeding for themselves. But it is a hard life for these dainty little visitors every summer.

DERWENT MAY
What's about: Birds — Watch for house martins over lakes and houses. Twitters — Cuckoo lark on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. American owl in Stridmarsh, Kent. Two harlequin ducks near Girvan, Ayrshire. Dettitis from Birdline 0991 281222. Call on 4p a minute cheap rate. Start all

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Start drinking champagne

Make pasta sauce

Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a saucepan. Crush three cloves of garlic into the oil. Stir for a minute. Add a half a dozen of chopped tomatoes, a glass (100ml) of white wine, a pinch of salt and a pinch of black pepper. Bring to the boil and simmer for five minutes.

Make chocolate sauce

If you have a microwave, put 50g plain chocolate, two tablespoons of milk and one tablespoon of Cornflour (or whatever liqueur you have to hand) into a microwave-resistant bowl. Melt and stir to make a smooth sauce.

Shopping

Dairy

Small tub ice-cream

30g parmesan cheese

2 tbs milk

Shellfish

200g (7oz) frozen, cooked and peeled tiger prawns

Savory goods

280g (10oz) bottle artichoke hearts in oil

400g (14oz) can

IN BOOTHS lit only by a red sampling centre in Bournville source of inspiration for the 50th anniversary of Cadbury's chocolate. The centre has volunteers, but only Cadbury's Assessments from the volunteers are honed and analysed by G. Evaluation Manager — "I call on the red-lit booths so that you pay attention to the taste rather

A 1920s cook

I have just finished reading the book 'The Art of Cookery' by Isaac Henslow, published in 1920. It is a book that I have long wanted to read. It is a book that I have long wanted to read. It is a book that I have long wanted to read.



Spontaneous temptation for lo

FAST FOOD

AMERICAN... dinner for two... American... dinner for two... American... dinner for two...

A 1920s cookbook yields a recipe for Folkestone pie — good marching fodder for an army — and a host of tips on household hygiene

If I am right in thinking that Harpie is the disinfectant that gets right round the bend and puts the fear of God into microbes in life's less savoury places, then I have unearthed one of the most bizarre sponsorship deals in history.

A slender volume has come into my possession entitled the *Harpie Cook Book*, published in 1926. Can you believe it? Is it possible that, while history records that the smart thing to do in the 1920s was the Charleston, the nation was, in fact, taking Harpie to its bosom and muttering the slogan "a sprinkle at night leaves the lavatory germ-free and white" while consulting the recipe for kidney hotpot, which appears on the same page? We are also told that this miracle product "clears the drain from house to main", right alongside the directions for chocolate mould with peppermint cream sauce.

For the sake of my stomach, I generally prefer to keep some distance between "dealing with bluebottles" and cauliflower fritters. In the same way that I would not relish the *Elastoplast Book of Meat Carving*, or *Milk of Magnesia's*

Guide to Curries of the World. But people were made of sterner stuff in 1927. But in my new life, which finds me increasingly wed to the kitchen stove, the Harpie book has proved invaluable. I now know that a proper housewife's duties include, at 9.45am, "rub up letterbox, sweep porch and steps" and, having spent between 10.30am and 11am examining the lavatory pans, setting aside no less than an hour and a half after lunch for washing-up.

However, all that apart, for someone whose declared ambition is to draw the world's attention once again to the value of all things homemade, this book is a treasure trove. No sooner had my eyes fallen upon the recipe for Folkestone pie that I had to make one there and then. And what do you think might be the principal ingredient of a dish named after this South Coast harbour, one of our gateways to the Continent? Some-

thing fishy? A French influence? No, this pie is mostly rice. I am as bewildered as you. I have been to Folkestone many times but did not spot any paddy fields.

To be a proper home-made dish, the recipe has to have nothing in it that could not have been bought over the counter of any grocer's shop in the 1950s. Not for nostalgic reasons, but because I have set myself the task of understanding ingredients, and you are never going to appreciate the joys of, say, Yorkshire pudding if you buy a bag of ready-mixed powders. I prefer to start from scratch.

So, for the Folkestone pie I first needed some pastry. Straight away I find I am being untrue to my principles, because I



PAUL HEINEY
HOME MADE

have always had problems with pastry. It is the bit where "you rub the fat into the flour till it resembles breadcrumbs". I have never created anything other than greasy, floured lumps by this method — certainly not dough.

The *Harpie Cook Book* offers good advice on pastry-making but it is adjacent to a sermon called the "ABC of Home Sanitation", and I found my eyes wandering to a worrying phrase: "Pause to consider

how seldom is every house in any street entirely free of contagious diseases."

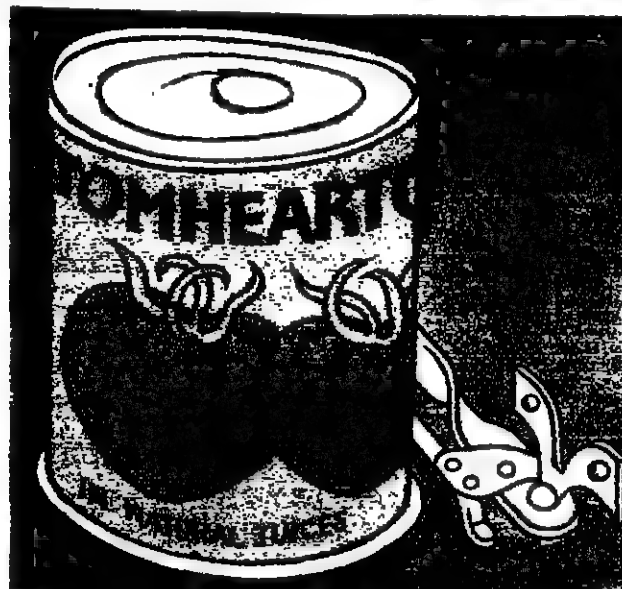
So, because I was in a hurry to bring you this dish, I bought frozen pastry, rolled it out and lined a shallow pie dish. I then baked it in a hot oven till crispy.

Not the oven about which I was writing last week: that is still undergoing a flue transplant. I popped it into the Aga. An Aga, according to its high priestess Mary Berry, seems to be one of those things into which you never put things, you always "pop" them, like popping to the lavatory. Sorry, Harpie on the brain.

For the filling of the Folkestone pie, you need 3oz of pudding rice simmered in a pint of milk for about half an hour until you have a creamy rice pudding. You might think it is worth stopping here and just tucking in, but you would be missing a treat. Add to your creamy rice a hefty knob of butter, a good handful of currants, 4oz of sugar and a couple of well-beaten eggs. Pour this mixture into the pie dish, now lined with crisp pastry, and bake for half an hour or so until it goes slightly brown on top.

The book says that this can be served hot or cold and that an ideal accompaniment is a spoonful of marshmallow cream. Never heard of it, have you? By coincidence, a Kenwood Chef cookbook (founded but judging by the ladies' hairdos about 1955) tells me that whisking together for a hearty four minutes one egg white and half a pound of sieved jam produces the stuff, and that it keeps well in the refrigerator.

I found it disappointing: too sweet, sticky and gluey for me. But Folkestone pie is a different matter. Admittedly, it is the sort of food on which an army could march a long way, assuming it ever managed to start moving at all after such an assault on its stomach, but it hits the spot on a cold day, it is real food, and truly homemade. If I could suggest an improvement, I would spread a generous layer of bitter marmalade on the pastry before adding the rice mixture, and sprinkle a little nutmeg on the top of the rice before baking. It needs a little more sweetness down below, and a touch more spice on top. Just like Folkestone, really.



Spontaneous temptation for lovers

FAST FOOD

Amorous, impetuous dinner for two

Champagne
Artichoke heart and parmesan salad
Tiger prawn linguine
Ice-cream and hot chocolate sauce

This is a quick, luxurious dinner for two which can be cobbled together with ingredients from the fridge, the freezer and the store cupboard. Whether it is an impromptu romancing of your partner or a special dinner for a new love, seize the day and the tin opener — and don't forget the candles.

Start drinking champagne

■ **Make pasta sauce**
Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a saucepan. Crush three cloves of garlic into the oil. Stir for a minute. Add a 400g (14oz) tin of chopped tomatoes, a glass (100ml/3½oz) of champagne and half a teaspoon of dried chilli flakes. Bring to the boil and simmer for five minutes.

■ **Make chocolate sauce**
If you have a microwave, put 50g plain chocolate, two tablespoons of milk and one tablespoon of Cointreau (or whatever liqueur you have to hand) into a microwave-resistant bowl. Melt and stir to make a smooth sauce.

If you are using an ordinary cooker, put the ingredients into a bowl that fits above a pan of simmering water. Heat, stirring occasionally until the ingredients melt together, usually after a couple of minutes.

■ **Make and serve salad**
On two plates, arrange the sliced artichoke hearts in a little of the oil from the bottle. Sprinkle a few drops of sherry or wine vinegar onto each plate and mix into the oil. Using a knife or a potato peeler, pare a few shavings of parmesan onto the artichoke hearts. Season with black pepper. Serve.

■ **Finish and serve pasta**
Put 150g (5oz) linguine into boiling water and cook for six minutes, or until it is *al dente*. Meanwhile, add 200g (7oz) tiger prawns to the sauce and cook for five more minutes, until the prawns are completely heated through, stirring from time to time. Turn off the heat. Season with salt and black pepper.

Drain and divide the pasta between two plates. Put sauce on top.

■ **Serve pudding**
Take the ice-cream out of the freezer. Bring the water under the chocolate sauce to the boil and heat until it is hot. Serve the ice-cream in bowls and pour the sauce on top.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping list

Dairy
Small tub ice-cream
20g parmesan cheese
2 tbs milk

Shellfish
200g (7oz) frozen, cooked and peeled tiger prawns

Savoury goods
280g (10oz) bottle artichoke hearts in oil
400g (14oz) can

chopped tomatoes
½ tsp dried chilli flakes
few drops sherry or wine vinegar

Sweet goods
50g (2oz) plain chocolate

Drink
1 bottle of champagne or sparkling wine
1 tbs Cointreau (or other liqueur)

DIGEST

All the buzz from France

WELL placed to win an award for the most far-fetched food product of 1996 is *Miel des Toits de Paris*, an exclusive honey from leading Paris grocer Fauchon, on sale at Selfridges at £9.50 for a 125g (4½oz) jar.

Why so expensive? Because of its rarity. The honey comes from a hive kept on the roof of the Paris opera house. It was installed in 1984 by the opera's interior designer, Jean Fauchon, who was trying to find a temporary home for the bees. About 500 pots of honey are made a year.

In case you're worrying that the honey might be tainted with Gauloise smoke, traffic fumes or the odd pigeon dropping, rest assured. The 1995 vintage (yes, a vintage is declared each year) is delectably sweet, sticky and smells of lime blossom. The honey keeps indefinitely.

Kid stuff?

STRANGE when we have embraced the Mediterranean diet so wholeheartedly that we have never really taken to kid, a delicacy in countries such as Greece and Italy, where it constitutes the centrepiece of the Easter table.

Bob Kennard, a Welsh farmer supplying organic meat, reckons it is the name that puts people off. He prefers to call it goat, but says that up to now there hasn't been much demand for it. "People are happy to eat lamb, but offer them goat and they go all gooey," he says.

Since the BSE scare, Mr Kennard has seen an upsurge of interest in goat, which is a slightly gamier alternative to lamb. Mr Kennard's new season's leg of lamb costs £9.61 a kilo; a leg of goat is £5.90. Contact him at Graig Farm, Dolau, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5TL (01597 851655).

Join the Yakult

EVERYONE, according to the advertisements in the national media over the past week, is talking Yakult. For those of you who haven't dropped it into your conversation, Yakult is a Japanese fermented drink containing live bacteria which apparently promotes healthy "intestinal flora". It comes in a strip of seven dinky 65ml plastic bottles, each of which, the company claims, contains 6.5 million lactobacillus casei Shirota, the lactic acid bacteria named after the doctor who identified this strain 60 years ago.

After three days of swigging it, I have to report my intestinal flora seem much the same as usual. It tastes a bit like a mandarin-flavoured yoghurt drink but is nothing to write home about. It is, however, a brilliant money-making idea. Keeping my family of six in Yakult for a year would cost £780, which may explain why the company has a turnover of £1.54 billion worldwide.

Takeaway chic

UBIQUITOUS television chef and restaurateur Antony Worrall Thompson seems to be taking the name of his latest restaurant, Drones, lit-



Miel des Toits de Paris, from a hive installed on the roof of the Paris opera house in 1984, is on sale in Selfridges for £9.50 per 125g (4½oz) jar

erally. He has opened a shop next door providing ready-cooked food for those who don't want to lift a finger in the kitchen.

The deal's a good one. Lunch at Drones and you'll pay about £30 a head for a three-course meal, presumably for the benefit of sitting — as I did — next to Joan Collins. You can take away similar dishes from The Grocer (as the takeaway side is called) for £10 to £12.

The dinner-party pack the day I was there contained antipasti, lamb tagine and couscous, and blood orange and chocolate trifle — all for £10.50. You could, alternatively, have picked up tomato, fennel and basil soup, seared smoked salmon and mango salad, Jamaican rabbit curry,

coq au vin, chocolate and raspberry terrine, assorted oils, spices and pickles, and even a carton of milk. The menu changes every day, but if you want something specific tell them in advance and they'll make it for you.

The Grocer and Drones are at 1-3 Pont Street, London SW1. Restaurant reservations, 0171-259 6166. Shop, 0171-259 6188.

Coffee froth

THE COFFEE craze that started in Seattle, Washington, seems to be getting a grip in Britain. Before you swan into one of the smart new bars you need to get the hang of American coffeespeak. Rule one: don't ask for a black coffee — ask for an espresso (or an Americano if you don't

dash of milk to the coffee. Confused? You ain't heard nothing yet. Real coffee addicts (and health nuts) customise their coffees. You saunter in in a Kate Moss-ish way and ask for a Tall Skinny — a latte made with a double portion of non-fat milk. And don't look surprised when it comes in a glass.

Try American-style coffee at branches of Aroma in London, Coffee Republic in South Molton Street, W1, and the Seattle Coffee Company in Covent Garden and Cambridge.

Erroneous zone

THE BLURB on book dustjackets is often asinine, but new depths are plumbed by Margi Clarke's *Better Than Sex Cookbook* (Hodder, £14.99). "Food That Makes Love To Your Taste buds" trills the cover. Inside are some pretty sad recipes. If Ms Clarke finds Quorn and Beansprout Parcels better than sex I suggest she was the wrong woman to front ITV's *Good Sex Guide*.

FIONA BECKETT

Chocolate Box

IN BOOTHS lit only by a red bulb, it's all about "mouthfeel". This is the sampling centre in Bournville, the source of inspiration for the 526,000 tonnes of Cadbury's chocolate we eat each year. The centre has 200 volunteers, but only Cadbury's staff can apply. Alex Wijeratna writes.

Assessments from the volunteers are honed and analysed by George Dadd, the tastefully titled Sensory Evaluation Manager. "I call myself the chief chocolate taster," he insists on the red-lit booths so that assessors pay attention to the taste rather than

the look of the samples. Mr Dadd, a chocoholic — "I buy chocolate when I'm off duty" — is in search of the Holy Grail of chocolate. Balance is all: mouthfeel, particle size, creaminess, caramelisation, bitterness — all have to be present.

"Snap the chocolate to smell its aroma, then bite it," he says. "The bite should be firm but not hard." The chocolate is rubbed between the tongue and the back of the teeth. As it melts, it is pushed to smother the back of the tongue. "I don't want it to feel sandy or slimy on the

palette," he says. "Follow the flavour as it decreases." To achieve what Mr Dadd considers the right mouthfeel, the melting point has to be perfect: cocoa beans from Ghana are favoured over Malaysian which are slower to melt in the mouth.

Most testers swallow the chocolate then sip mineral water. Mr Dadd spits it out. Either way, a dozen samples at one sitting are about as much as the taster's palate can take. With especially strong chocolate, it's eight. His latest creation, Whisper Gold, an aerated chocolate smothered with

a layer of caramel and wrapped in more chocolate, has just arrived in the shops. There are other developments, but these are top secret in case rivals get hold of the plans.

● Cadbury World exhibition, Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham B30 2LD (0121-451 4180/4159). Open daily 10am-5.30pm, though this can vary, so ring. £5 for adults; £3.45 for children (aged 5-15), under-5s free. Family tickets £14.50 (2 plus 2) or £17.50 (2 plus 3). OAPs £4.35, Mon-Fri.

Chocolate in Yorkshire, page 21

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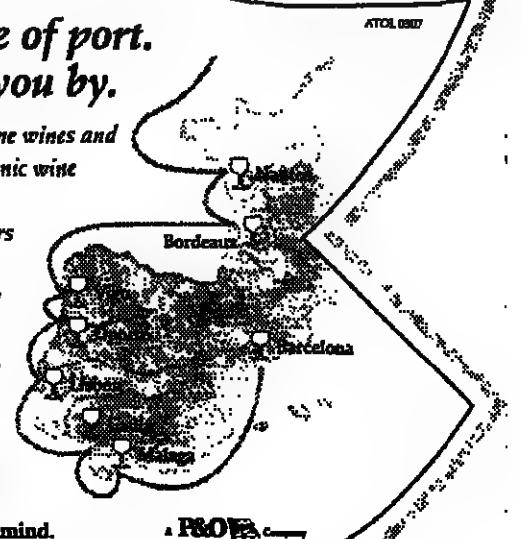
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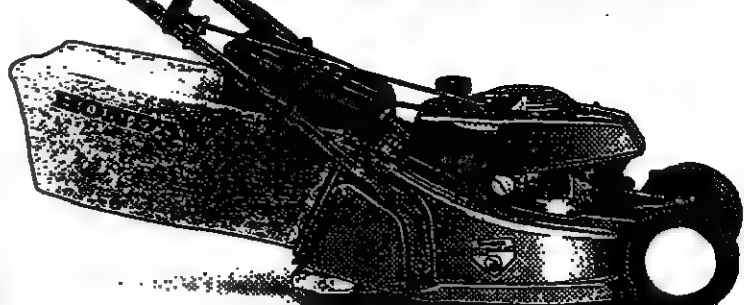
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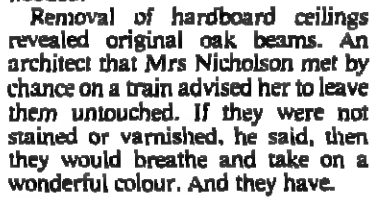
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In the evenings, rabbits play around the house and a duck sits on three eggs hidden in the bushes beneath the kitchen window. It is all a far cry from the Collingham Gardens

The *Spectator* columnist, Henry Fairley, introduced them to a newly completed block of flats in the Cut on the south side of Waterloo Bridge, where they shared a landing with a baronet, an actor who composed *The Little White Bull* for Tommy Steele and a property developer who was to marry Maya Angelou.

In their Welsh retreat, the two now both wish they had kept a foothold, however modest, in London, but friends in a similar situation assure them that the expense involved is prohibitive.

• CHERYL TAYLOR


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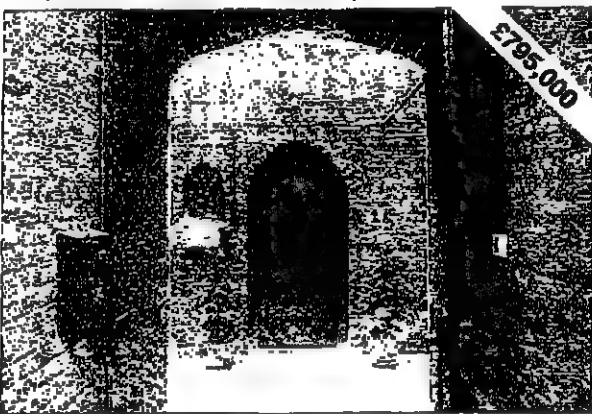
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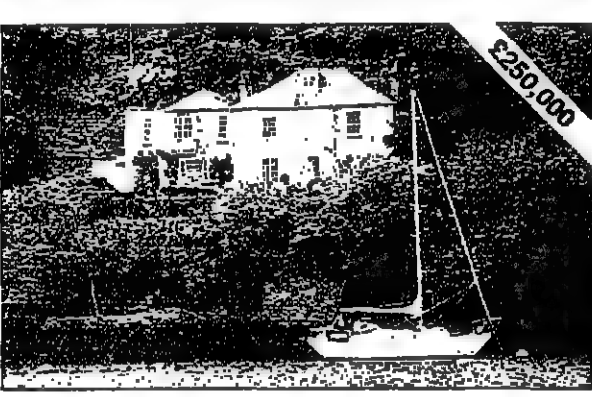
EXTRA SECURITY



ITALY: Palazzo del Vescovo, Umbria. Fortified castle (former palace of the Bishop of Perugia) on a hilltop, with a watchtower at each corner, one entrance and a drawbridge. About 36 rooms, a chapel and two courtyards, in need of renovation. Water and electricity available. About £650,000 (Brian A. French, 0171-628 0244).



LONDON: Berkeley Castle in Mayfair. Grade II listed Gothic-style castle with ornate stonework and turret, hidden behind wrought-iron electronic gates, previously rented by Hollywood glitterati such as Cher. Four bedrooms (with en suite bath), drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and a large roof terrace. About £795,000 for a 22-year lease (Wetherill, 0171-493 8838).



CORNWALL: Restronguet Weir. This house overlooking Restronguet Creek and the Carrick Roads Estuary is cut off by the high tide which covers its approach road across the beach twice a day. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and roof terrace. Garden and mooring. About £250,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01392 214222).

CHERYL TAYLOR



On Guernsey, Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall near St Peter Port. This Regency house was built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland

Britain's offshore islands have a romantic appeal for house buyers, especially if you are wealthy and looking for seclusion and low taxes.

They range from the warm, sunny and sophisticated Channel Islands to the cooler, civilised Isle of Man. Property prices vary widely, as do the requirements for residence.

To set up home on the sought-after island of Jersey, with its mild climate and tax-haven status, being a millionaire is not enough. To meet the requirements of the island's authorities you must have at least £12 million in liquid assets that provide the Jersey tax authorities with at least £160,000 a year.

Potential immigrants must also have a residence permit, known as a 10-K, which qualifies them to buy a house on the island worth more than £750,000; but only five or six are granted every year. There are exceptions: you may have a skill which is needed on Jersey, or marry an islander, which is probably the only sure way to become a resident.

There is plenty of property for sale on this 45 sq mile island, but only 20 or so houses are generally available to outsiders. You might pick

up a five-bedroom country house for less than a million pounds, but most cost a great deal more.

Income tax is only 20 pence in the pound on Jersey, as well as Guernsey and Alderney, and there is no VAT, capital gains or inheritance tax.

The largest property to come on the market in Jersey for years, the Trinity Manor Estate, near St Helier, has just been sold for around £6.5 million, through estate agents F. Le Gallais and Knight Frank, to the chairman of a large City of London company. The pink stone 16th-century manor house and lodge, in 139 acres of formal gardens and parkland comes with the feudal manorial title "Seigneur de la Trinité" (Lord of the Manor).

Another prestigious property, La Valette Farm, a secluded

Britain's offshore islands have much to offer those in search of seclusion and low taxes

19-acre estate in the parish of St John on Jersey's north coast, is currently on offer at £5 million through Hamptons Gothard and Trevor in St Helier. The 16th-century main house, built of pink granite, has six bedrooms and five reception rooms, including a vaulted baronial-style hall with ceiling and minstrel's gallery. It comes with a two-bedroom cottage, two flats, a swimming pool and garaging for six cars.

It is easier to settle in Guernsey, provided you can find a suitable house. Only a limited number of properties on this 24 sq mile island are for sale to outsiders, about 90 per cent of the 17,000 homes being reserved for locals. Of the rest, only a few are on market at any one time.

Open-market properties are highly sought-after and prices are high. There is little left for less than £250,000, which buys a Victorian terrace house or a small modern house on an estate. Detached houses in good condition range from £400,000 to £800,000. Larger country houses in up to five acres cost around £2 million.

So, a local estate agent, has an eight-bedroom period terrace house in St Peter Port with sea views, in need of modernisation, at £295,000; or a fully restored Georgian town house, with four bedrooms at £255,000.

For £690,000 you could buy Fort Saumarez, a six-bedroom villa and annex in 3.42 acres with a Martello tower, on the island's west coast overlooking Lihou Island, on offer through Knight Frank.

Estate agent Shields & Co is asking £7 million for Havilland Hall, a Regency house built at the turn of the 19th century for Sir Thomas de Havilland, near St Peter Port. Set in 55 acres of parkland, it has six bedrooms and six reception rooms, farm buildings, walled garden, paddocks and tennis court.

The smaller Channel Island of Alderney, a 15-minute flight from Guernsey or Jersey or 35 minutes from Southampton, is more welcoming to home buyers as there is no two-tier housing market.

Just three and a half miles by one and a half, with a population of 2,400, Alderney, like the other Channel Islands, is a fully fledged tax-haven. It has its own government, power and water supplies, emergency services and schools. There are no high-rise blocks and hardly any crime on the island, which has white sandy beaches and one golf course.

The island's authorities will

lower than on Jersey or Guernsey. A two-bedroom flat in a two-storey block starts at £50,000; traditional stone cottages and small modern houses from £75,000. Bungalows with three bedrooms, garden and sea views start from £120,000; detached houses with some land fetch upwards of £180,000.

One of the largest houses on the island, a seven-bedroom, stucco-fronted Victorian house in two acres, the former home of the late cricket writer and commentator John Arlott, recently sold for around £450,000 through local agents Bell & Co.

The same agent is asking £79,900 for a one-bedroom granite cottage near St Anne. You could buy a pretty terraced two-bedroom cottage, with a walled garden, for £82,500; or a detached three-

cent of the property value, plus legal fees.

The Isle of Man has attracted many wealthy immigrants from the UK mainland, including Nigel Mansell, who last year sold his six-bedroom custom-built house in 160 acres near Port Erin for around £1.25 million.

The 227 sq mile island, with its relaxed, virtually crime-free environment, and taxes on income at 15-20 per cent with no capital gains or inheritance tax, stamp duty or property tax, welcomes incomers from the European Union, who need no special financial qualifications for residency.

It is a well-ordered community, with its own National Health Service, as in the Channel Islands, and some good schools. It offers mountain glens and deserted beaches, with good fishing, sailing, windsurfing, golf and motorsports, including the annual TT races.

There has been no property boom. The market is relatively stable, though prices are rising as more people move there. Many of the newcomers work in the growing off-shore financial sector.

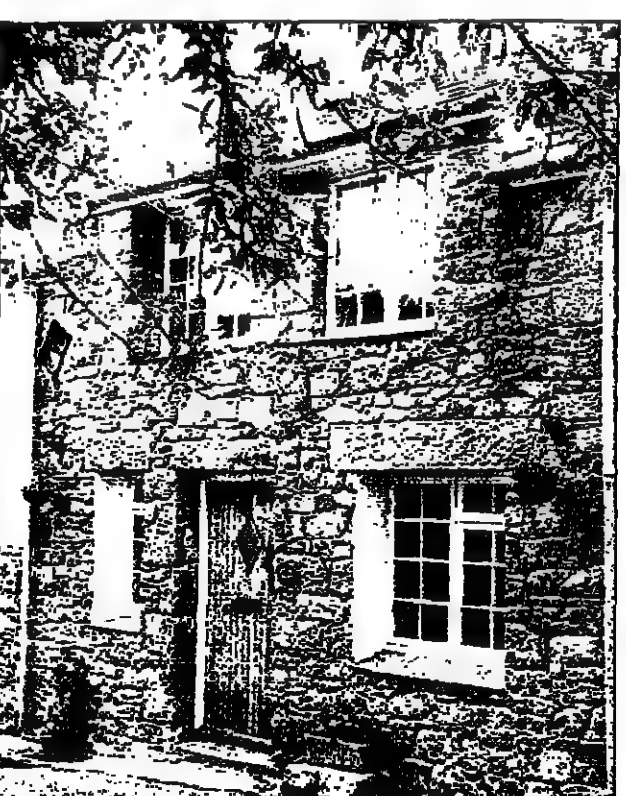
Property prices start around £40,000 for a two-bedroom flat in a low-rise block. A small modern semi costs from £50,000 to £60,000; three-bedroom detached bungalows from £70,000 to £80,000, and four-bedroom executive detached houses around £150,000. Large period country houses with land fetch from £500,000 to more than £5 million.

Currently on the market, through local agents Chrystals, is the Nunery, home of Robert Sangster. The 18th-century mansion in 55 acres of park and woodland, with frontage on to the river Douglas, is for sale at £3.5 million. It has five bedrooms, suites, four reception rooms, nursery and staff wing as well as its own chapel, indoor and outdoor pools, stabling, two cottages and two gate lodges.

Legal fees are the only significant cost involved in property purchase on the Isle of Man, amounting to around 1-1½ per cent of the purchase price.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Jersey: F. Le Gallais (01534 66689); Hamptons Gothard and Trevor (01534 20338); Guernsey: Shields & Co (01481 71445); Alderney: Bell & Co. (01481 822562); Isle of Man: Chrystals (01624 62378); Cowley Grove (01624 675494); Also Knight Frank (Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man): 0171-629 8171.



On Alderney, this one-bedroom cottage costs £79,900

not allow outsiders to build a new home on a building plot but, if you've lived there for at least ten years, you may be allowed to do so.

Although property prices are rising, they are still much

lower than on Jersey or Guernsey. A two-bedroom flat in a two-storey block starts at £50,000; traditional stone cottages and small modern houses from £75,000. Bungalows with three bedrooms, garden and sea views start from £120,000; detached houses with some land fetch upwards of £180,000.

Buying costs in both Alderney and Guernsey, including property tax (council) and stamp duty, amount to 5½ per

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PETS

PET NEWS

Broadcasting budgies

WHY do the residents of EastEnders, Coronation Street and Brookside have hardly any pets? asks Margaret Ferries, the Editor of *Pet Business World*. "Mavis in Coronation Street used to have a budgie, but they had a storyline about it laying an egg when it was obviously a cock," she says. "One in every two households has a pet of some kind. So why are the soaps not reflecting this? I've written to the producers but they say that animals add to the costs."

Ms Ferries wants to compile a list of all pets appearing in soaps. If you spot one, write to her at *Pet Business World*, 9 Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 1QN.

Get thee to a swannery

DISASTER has struck the swan-lovers of Polperro, Cornwall. Two swans, Fred and Queenie, had become firm village favourites and were fed bread and pet food. But when visitors joined in the feeding, a bunch of mallards muscled in on the bonanza. Fred responded by drowning his ducklings. Tourists were appalled and this week Fred and Queenie were banished to a swannery.

Foreign fish in fashion

SPRING has been a little late this year, but it has given breathing space to aquatic gardeners. Bob Clarke, a livestock buyer for Pet City, a pet supermarket, forecasts that sales of koi carp — a relative of the goldfish — will go swimmingly. He has shipped in 10,000 from Israel. A mature koi, 30in-long, costs £599; £199 for a thumb-sized baby.

JACK CROSSLEY

Taking the bounce out of Beau

If your dog has the upper hand, a professional trainer may be the answer

Beau, our black Labrador, must be the most handsome dog in the world. His coat glistens, his brown eyes gleam, his tail is a banner, waving in the park. He is the ultimate hound, except for one big snag — he bounces.

The problem is that we live in Fulham, west London, which is not the ideal place for big dogs that grow bigger every day. We had intended to head for Wiltshire to join the Aga set, but just as Beau arrived the bottom fell out of the housing market. So here we sit, waiting for a buyer and watching him grow.

He is ten months old and immensely good-natured, but after he had flattened an elderly gentleman and a small girl in the local park, it became obvious that Beau would have to be trained.

All dogs — but especially big, city-bound dogs — are happier for a spot of training and we soon discovered that dog training and dog support services can be found in most major towns. There are walking services for working families, encounter groups for lonely dogs, playgroups for superactive dogs and a huge range of training classes where dogs and their owners are taught the elements of good behaviour and control. These services can be contacted through the classified ads in the local paper or, more usefully, through the local vet. As we both work from home we did not need a walker, and as Beau has us and his chum Saffie, the Jack Russell, he is never lonely. What he needed was a firm hand.

Evening classes and training sessions in the park did not work. Beau is extremely sociable and very less doggerel into a romp. Then, just as we'd given up hope, we chanced on Mark Thompson in Richmond Park. He was sitting on the grass surrounded by a score of dogs of every size and breed, all perfectly behaved and all without visible restraint. If he could do that with assorted hounds, then



Dog trainer Mark Thompson with some of his charges in Richmond Park, London. Beau, the author's black Labrador, is fourth from left

maybe a miracle could be worked on Beau — and so it proved.

Mr Thompson is one of Britain's leading professional dog trainers, but he denies that he just loves dogs. "I don't love all dogs, but I get on with them. As for training them, I think it's a knack."

Hiring a professional dog trainer is like entering your offspring for Eton. He or she will first interview you and the hound before deciding when the training will start. This is usually at about six months, when the puppy has some kind of attention span and can retain the training. It depends on the dog but, given training and a lot of homework by the owner, a bouncing, lead-tugging, run-off-and-won't-

come-back puppy can be transformed in about four weeks.

We enrolled Beau as a day dog and off he went to school. Four days later he was expelled. "He's too young," Mr Thompson said. "I will show you some basic controls and we will try again in a month."

For the next few weeks we worked on the basics: teaching Beau to sit at the kerb, not to leap on visitors, to wait to be invited to eat. Slowly, he became more tractable and a month later he went back to class.

Mr Thompson collected Beau early in the morning and brought him back about 4pm. The day began with a bit of socialising to

work off the energy, followed by a couple of hours of individual training, then more play and then group training. A lot of this training was directed at us. We had to keep up the good work and see that Beau did his homework and did not resume bouncing when Mr Thompson was not around. These lessons depend on persistence, praise and reward, not on punishment or scolding; over the weeks Beau was transformed. He loved his lessons and became very fond of Mr Thompson, who seems to exercise some form of mystic control over the dogs.

Training at this level is not cheap. The cost is about £20 a day but the results are worth it. We

have learnt to control Beau and life has become much less stressful. Beau will trot along quietly on his lead, stop at gates and at the kerb and — usually — comes back when called. Much of this training has rubbed off on Saffie, so we now have two happy hounds thanks to a lot of hard work, and Mr Thompson.

Now if we can sell the house and move to Wiltshire, life will be just about perfect.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Mark Thompson accepts dogs from all parts of the country and can be contacted at The Dog House, 3 Ballantine Street, London SW18 1AL (0181-870 3883).

A Vet Writes...

Phantom puppies

Animals deceive us. Hamsters feign death if they are intensely cold. Birds do "broken wing acts" when a nest is threatened. Bitches deceive themselves, and us, by believing they're pregnant and behaving accordingly, when they're not — even if they have never had a close encounter with a dog in their life. It's normal.

Every bitch has a false pregnancy six to nine weeks after season. It happens because the ovaries produce a progesterone-type hormone — the one governing pregnancy and inducing milk production — after every season, regardless of mating, and the body reacts to it. The lining of the uterus thickens, prepared to receive the embryos, even if there aren't any. The udder and teats develop, and there's a general slowing down and an "I must take care of myself" attitude.

The signs are barely detectable in some bitches. Others show marked physical and behavioural changes, convinced they're having pups. They make nests, they take toys to bed and cherish and protect them. Hence stories of kittens being suckled by a Great Dane, and orphaned fox cubs being reared by a terrier. It goes further. I had a springer spaniel who collected day-old chicks during her false pregnancy until the mother hen took exception.

Most false pregnancies end after a few weeks without complications but sometimes things go wrong. The lining of the uterus can thicken excessively and lead to "pyometra" — a life-threatening accumulation of pus. Excessive thirst, enlarged abdomen, possibly a creamy pink discharge are signals that say: "See the vet quickly!"

JAMES ALLCOCK



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Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

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IBS is a painful disorder that can ruin your life. I used to suffer terribly from IBS, and had all the usual symptoms (pain, wind etc) but conquered the problem using a simple, two-step control programme. Since then my symptoms have virtually disappeared and the quality of my life has improved beyond measure. Now you can share the information that gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I dealt with mine. The topics covered include: causes and symptoms; how to look after your digestive system; relief from wind; tips on how to cope with stress; foods that can make things worse; and much, much more.

Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk - if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. See box below for details of how to order.

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I am a doctor with years of experience in general practice and have diagnosed and treated countless hundreds of patients who have this often troublesome problem. But it isn't only doctors who can help - there's an awful lot you can do yourself to help overcome the symptoms of arthritis. For this reason I decided to write a book which gives all the advice and information you need to help you reduce your arthritis symptoms. Thousands of people have already benefited from my advice on health matters and now you can share the information I have gathered over the years - while working as a family doctor and hospital doctor. The book contains all the information you're likely to need, including: getting the best out of drugs; controlling pain; diet and arthritis; helpful alternative treatments; what doctors can do; and much, much more. The advice is easy-to-follow and includes practical tips designed to help you deal with your arthritis symptoms.

To order simply write "Arthritis" or "IBS" on a piece of paper and send it with your name and address to: Sales Office, T115, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HH. Remember to enclose your cheque/PO for £9.95 per book. Credit card sales please ring (01271) 328892. All our books come with full money-back guarantee - simply return within 28 days of receipt for a full refund if not delighted. Please allow 28 days for your book/s to be delivered.

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SHOPPING

Whether your taste in bathrooms is modern minimalism or nostalgic decadence, there are accessories to match

Splash out and enjoy a steamy soak

If I had spent as much time improving my education as I have spent in the bath, I might have been a surgeon, a judge, or running a multinational company by now. But I don't regret a single hour spent in steaming, scented water with a gin and tonic at my elbow and a toe languidly controlling the hot tap.

A truly self-indulgent bath will cure, or at least ameliorate, a multitude of ills, from decorator's bodyache to a broken heart, and any bathoholic will tell you that most of their best ideas emerge from the fragrant steam. But the surroundings have to be right.

If the bathroom is one of your main decorating priorities, there are accessories to match your taste, whether modern minimalist or nostalgic decadent.

This year's bathrooms, if not white, are decorated in shades of eau de nil, sea green and Aegean blue. The London store Heal's has matching accessories for these watery shades in its verdigris-coloured plasterware with golden rims, handles and feet. Its toothbrush holder (£22.95), soapdish (£22.95) and pot (£26.95) have just the right blend of Etruscan and contemporary to make them work in any style of bathroom.

Heal's has a good one-stop bathroom shop for those uncertain about the style they want, with offerings from "nostalgic", crazed china in cream and eau de nil (from £4.50 for a bowl) to a sharp, modern set in white china with silver fish (from £9.50 for a soapdish), and Mediterranean white ceramics with blue and purple mosaic marine motifs (from £7.95 for a tooth mug).

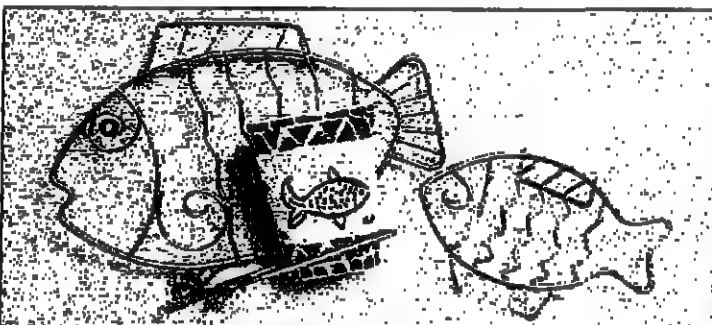
For a classical look equally at home with stark white or traditional decoration, consider the iron bathroom shelf — a hanging unit of three basket shelves, 21½ in x 12 in, £29.95 — from the McCord catalogue, or turn to the Bombay Duck



Above left: CVX mirror with silver fish (from £85)



Above: CVX mirror with leaping fish (£345), Heal's pot (£36.95), soapdish (£22.95), toothbrush holder (£22.95). Right: Bombay Duck's tumblers (£6.75) and bowls (£3.25)



Above: Bis wire toothbrush holder (£12), soapdish (£5). Right: Bombay Duck's iron soapdish (£11.50)

catalogue, where you will find a graceful, curlicued, hand-forged iron soap stand (£11.50), a set of matching French hooks (£34.50) for towels and bathrobes, and a single shelf (about 24 in x 9 in, £55) for your glamorous unguents.

To jazz up a white bathroom without going crazy, there is the Bombay Duck's anodised aluminium collection in bright, iridescent green, turquoise, magenta, purple, red or gold: use lidded canisters (from £8.95) for supplies, and choose different-coloured large

tumblers (£6.75) as tooth mugs; breakfast bowls (£3.25) for soaps and bath crystals, and matching small candleholders with star cut-outs (£5.75) to light your ablutions.

If you're following a marine theme in cobalt blue rather than greens, some of the best value accessories are at Bhs, which has cobalt glass tooth mugs with raised fish motifs (£7) and matching fish-shaped soapdishes (£5). Its chrome wire fish design range is fun for a white-and-steel decorated bathroom, with a fish-shaped tooth-

brush holder (£12) and a matching lavatory paper holder (£12). Bhs also has textured towels (the look of the moment) in plain white with blue and purple mosaic trims (bath towel £12) and in green with underwater motifs (bath towel £11) — match them with the Heal's mosaic ceramics.

If you need a shower curtain to complement your cobalt theme, choose Habitat's Coral Reef curtain (clear with cobalt motifs) or the Seashell (clear with raised with shells and shellfish), both £27.50.

Bathroom accessory stockists

- The Bathroom Catalogue, £2.95, 0181-665 0066.
- Bhs, branches nationwide.
- Bombay Duck, catalogue £2.50, 0181-964 8882.
- Jane Cooper, 0181-446 8598.
- Habitat, branches nationwide.
- C.P. Hart, catalogue £3, 0171-902 1000.
- CXV, 376 King's Road, London SW3, 0171-351 5875.
- Heal's, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 and King's Road, London SW3, 0171-630 1066.
- Czech & Speake, 34c Jermyn Street, London W1, 0181-980 4567.
- McCord catalogue, 01793 43349.
- Mildred Pierce, 33 Garsington Street, London WC2, catalogue 0171-379 5128.
- Wax Lyrical, 0181-561 0235 for branches.

painted fish on blue frames (from £85) are less Baroque, but no less impressive.

CXV has an eclectic selection of decorative objects, such as bronze conch shells (£45), which would store enough cotton wool for a girls' dormitory, and driftwood-framed cases displaying pretty shells (to order, price on application).

On a more practical note, CXV has ceramic soapdishes with golden frog handles (£14.95) and a pewter fish skeleton soapdish (£29.50) with matching square mirror (£29.95).

To shop at home for everything from baths and showers to new taps and lavatory brushes, you need two more catalogues: C.P. Hart and The Bathroom Catalogue. Though both cover every style, including fixtures and accessories designed by Philippe Starck for an uncompromisingly contemporary look, the former veers to the traditional.

Think about it: you could make your choices lying in the bath.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

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BOOKS

Now let us praise Gloria in excelsis

Mary Ann Sieghart is reminded of how much women today owe to the struggle of America's most glamorous feminist

FOR any woman living today, life can be neatly divided into pre and post-feminism. The label itself may be out of fashion, but this biography of Gloria Steinem reminds us women in our thirties how much we owe to those who forged a path for us through unforgiving thickets.

When Steinem was a journalist wanting to write about politics, she had to defeat the universal notion that women were capable of tackling only fashion, beauty and childbirth. "Would men like to write about hunting, shovelling and patriarchy?" she asked in a 1995 *New York Times* book review. It is testimony to her success in rebalancing the scales between the sexes that men writing

unselfconsciously about fatherhood fill the features pages of national newspapers today.

Steinem fought and fought again to change men's attitudes towards women and women's attitudes to themselves. Her crusade came at great personal sacrifice to her physical and, occasionally, mental health. She forsook marriage and children, though she would have loved a family — but in her day, marriage usually meant domesticity and passivity. And she was brutally

■ **THE EDUCATION OF A WOMAN: The Life and Times of Gloria Steinem**
By Carolyn Heilbrun
Virago, £20

treated by journalists who felt both threatened and fascinated by her combination of beauty and brains. For Steinem has been the glamorous face of American feminism, in contrast to the frumpier Betty Friedan or the dykes-in-dungarees radical fringe. Her allure was both

help and handicap. It was impossible, with her as an example, to condemn feminists as bitter because they were too ugly to attract a man, but her beauty caused resentment among other women (notably Friedan) and encouraged the claim that it had smoothed her path to fame. Her typically caustic response was, "If women could sleep their way to the top, why aren't more women heads of companies?"

Steinem comes out of this biography as brave, loyal and generous as

well as witty. But then Heilbrun is a friend of her subject and the biography is unashamedly sympathetic, only marginally this side of gushing. It is hard to imagine why someone so ostensibly kind and laid-back as Steinem should have been the target of so much abuse.

The moral, perhaps, is that a movement which tries to include half the human race is bound to find its members in conflict as often as they agree. It pained Steinem that the press always jumped upon these divisions. But it is to her credit that so much of what she fought for has now been achieved.

● The author writes about politics for *The Times*



Steinem: paid a high personal price for her fight for change

When it is tough to be a teen angel

■ **CAIRO HUGHES**
By Millie Murray
■ **FRENCH LEAVE**
By Eileen Fairweather
■ **FAT CHANCE**
By Leslee Newman
■ **THROUGH THICK AND THIN**
Edited by Jane Waghorn
The Women's Press, £3.50 each

A SERIES of books for teenage girls, *Livewire* is currently being relaunched with a snazzy set of psychedelic covers. These four volumes are exercises in gritty realism; no midnight feasts and hockey matches here.

Cairo Hughes deals with the trials of a black girl adopted by a white family and their dizzying relocation to London. *French Leave* tells the story of 16-year-old Maxine, who moves into a grumpy Finsbury Park bedsit and cannot afford to eat; and *Fat Chance* is the tale of bulimic Judi and her graduation into therapy. *Through Thick and Thin* is a collection of "real-life" confessions about real girls' traumas — foster parents, arranged marriages, new brothers and sisters, and — my favourite — the horrors of having a Tory grandma.

Given that the writers are all well-meaning women who long since said goodbye to acne and Take That, the



Newman: bulimic heroine

realism is pretty successful. The general principle must be that girls want to read about girls like themselves, feelings they can identify with, environments they can recognise. It is rather unambitious, of course, to offer familiar circumstances in which to find some recognisable truth. It might be, say, that the story of a Pennsylvania boarding-school runaway in 1951 has a lot more to say to a teenage Londoner in 1996 than the story of a teenage Londoner in 1996, if the reader and the writer are prepared to make a bit of an effort.

On the other hand, perhaps you will never read *Catcher in the Rye* if you do not start with something easier: buried in *Cairo Hughes* is a clear recommendation to read Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, in which a black girl with an identity crisis would find not only the solidarity she might find in *Cairo Hughes*, but also the beauty and brilliance which the latter cannot offer.

These are by no means great books. They offer nothing more than you expect, but they are honest, likeable and decent. If the same could be said of all culture manufactured for teenagers — why then, we would be on the right track.

KATE HATFIELD VICTORIA COREN

John Naughton on 100 years of danger, lies, duplicity and death in the name of nuclear progress

Fallout of an atomic century

A HUNDRED years ago this year, a French physicist called Henri Becquerel placed a piece of uranium on a photographic plate and noted that it became fogged as a result. The uranium was behaving, in other words, like a light source — except that the "light" was not visible to the human eye. It was mankind's first conscious encounter with radioactivity.

Five years later, Becquerel borrowed from the Curies a small glass phial containing radium and put it in his waistcoat pocket. After about six hours he noticed that it had begun to burn his skin — through several layers of thick, bourgeois clothing. It was mankind's first conscious encounter with the downside of radioactivity.

Since then we have learnt how to harness it to cure, to destroy and to generate electricity. In the process we generated a mountain of lethal waste products, some of which are unimaginably toxic and remain so for unconscionable periods. The "half-life" of plutonium, for example — that is, the time it takes for half of a given mass of the substance to transmute into another element — is approximately 25,000 years. Yet there are about 1,200 tonnes of the stuff around worldwide and nobody, but nobody, knows what to do with it other than burying it in a very deep hole somewhere and praying that it remains undisturbed by seismic forces and the curiosity of future generations.

Journalist and film-maker Jeremy Hall had the smart

■ **REAL LIVES. HALF LIVES: Tales from the Atomic Wasteland**
By Jeremy Hall
Penguin, £6.99

idea of marking the centenary of Becquerel's discovery with an account of the experiences of people who are coping with the downside of the nuclear miracle. In the process he has produced an absorbing and troubling book based on encounters with victims of radioactivity, people who are struggling to solve the waste disposal problem and "whistle-blowers" concerned at the incompetence or mendacity of governments and corporations involved in the conduct or regulation of the decontamination business.

It is hard not to become enraged by this account of the cavalier recklessness and rank dishonesty with which, over the years, the governments of all the nuclear powers have exposed their own and others' citizens to the perils of radioactive fallout.

But all that is heavy under the bridge, and one of the nice things about Mr Hall's book is the way it transcends mere outrage. For while indignation is cheap, solutions in this area are likely to be very expensive.

What counts now is finding some way of decontaminating the mess that has been bequeathed to us by those who sought to exploit — for good reasons and bad, by fair means and foul — the power which first fogged M. Becquerel's plate a century ago.



Mushroom gathering: French atmospheric test in the early 1970s at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific — the history of nuclear power is a story of incompetence or mendacity by our governments and corporations

Just not the marrying kind

LIFE is painful. Love is agony. Discovering a crucial fact about yourself or the people you adore seems after everyone else has twigged is even worse.

Mimi Smithers, the narrator of *Love Junkie*, is a disappointed, sex-hating, suburban wife. She falls among a group of opera-loving men who go to Fire Island for the summer and keep amyl nitrate in their desks. Having tried to kiss one of them and sent him into a frozen panic that belatedly alerts her to his sexual orientation, she says to the reader: "I know what you're thinking. What's wrong with this woman? Doesn't she possess a working set of eyeballs?"

Even though her antennae usually let her down and her fantasies and generosity invite every kind of exploitation, Mimi gets there in the end and learns a great deal that she — and probably many readers — would prefer not to know about

■ **LOVE JUNKIE**
By Robert Plunkett
Quartet, £9

■ **FIFTY WAYS OF SAYING FABULOUS**
By Graeme Aitken
Headline Review, £5.99

the New York gay scene in the early 1960s just as news of Aids is spreading.

Switching from Mimi's interesting collection of "faux tortoise objects" and the clothes she makes for her epileptic chihuahua to the filming of a pornographic movie and other filthy goings-on all over New York, *Love Junkie* is cruel, gross in parts, and extremely funny.

Rather different is the story of fat, short-sighted, 12-year-old Billy-Boy in Graeme Aitken's first novel, *Fifty Ways of Saying Fabulous*. The son of a New Zealand farmer who says that if God wanted to

punish someone, "He'd give them a wife like your mother and a son that can't play rugby", Billy-Boy inhabits a make-believe world in which he is Judy Robinson, heroine of *Lost in Space*. Told by a bullying school-mate that he is "acting the pout", he innocently asks what pout means and thinks the answer sounds just like his bag: "Men who dress up in frocks and have 50 ways of saying fabulous."

None of it seems to have any connection with his interest in photographs of naked men or the strange but pleasurable activities he enjoys with Roy, the school "freak". It is not until much later, after his unthinking rejection of Roy has led to an appalling calamity, that Billy-Boy begins to understand. Touching and sad, *Fifty Ways of Saying Fabulous* also has some very funny moments.

KATE HATFIELD

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			Last week		No. weeks		
1	APPASSIONATA Jilly Cooper (Bantam)	£12.99	0	1			
2	THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS Roddy Doyle (Jonathan Cape)	£12.99	0	1			
3	CREDO Mervyn Bragg (Scapra)	£12.99	0	1			
4	KEN HOM'S HOT WOK BOOK Ken Hom (BBC)	£16.99	1	8			
5	JOHNNY AND THE BOMB Terry Pratchett (Doubleday)	£9.99	0	1			
6	FIRST KING OF SHANNARA Terry Brooks (Legend)	£12.99	4	4			
7	UNRULY QUEEN Flora Fraser (Macmillan)	£20	2	3			
8	WISDEN CRICKETERS' ALMANACK (Penguin)	£24.50	0	1			
9	THE DEBT TO PLEASURE John Lanchester (Picador)	£12.99	3	2			
10	PRIMARY COLORS Anonymous (Chatto & Windus)	£15.99	5	7			
PAPERBACK			Last week		No. weeks		
1	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£4.99	1	6			
2	GREEN MILE: TWO DEAD GIRLS Stephen King (Penguin)	£1.99	3	2			
3	HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo)	£5.99	0	1			
4	TRAINSPOTTING Irvine Welsh (Minerva)	£6.99	2	33			
5	THE RAINMAKER John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	9	11			
6	ORIGINAL SIN P. D. James (Penguin)	£5.99	6	5			
7	HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR Michael Palin (Mandarin)	£5.99	7	2			
8	OUR GAME John Le Carré (Coronet)	£5.99	5	5			
9	ACID HOUSE Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	8	22			
10	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS David Guterson (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	10	30			
11	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	12	10			
12	THE BLACK ALBUM Hanif Kureishi (Faber & Faber)	£5.99	11	2			
13	AS IT SEEMED TO ME John Cole (Phoenix)	£7.99	0	2			
14	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Mandarin)	£6.99	16	8			
15	HEART SONGS E. Annie Proulx (Fourth Estate)	£6.99	14	5			
16	LADDER OF YEARS Anne Tyler (Vintage)	£5.99	0	8			
17	A RUTHLESS NEED Catherine Cookson (Corpi)	£5.99	16	5			
18	APOCALYPSE WATCH Robert Ludlum (Flarvill)	£5.99	0	2			
19	THE CUNNING MAN Robertson Davies (Penguin)	£6.99	0	1			
20	READY STEADY COOK Anthony Worrall Thompson (BBC)	£4.99	0	2			

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7660 DILLONS

BOOK NEWS

How to serve up a winner

YET another award for *The River Café Cookbook* (Ebury). Its authors, Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers, have won the 1996 Glenfiddich food book of the year award. The best drink book was *Rhône Renaissance* by Remington Norman (Mitchell Beazley).

● **H. R. F. KEATING**, creator of Inspector Ghote, has become the eleventh 11th winner of the Crime Writers' Association's Cartier Diamond Dagger award for outstanding contributions to the genre. Other recipients have included John le Carré, P. D. James, Dick Francis, Ruth Rendell and Reginald Hill. Keating's latest novel is *The Bad Detective* (Macmillan).

● **THE** controversial £30,000 Orange Prize for the best novel written by a woman and published in Britain — why a special prize for women only? — has proved even more controversial in its first shortlist, which includes Helen Dunmore's *A Spell of Winter* and Anne Tyler's *Ladder of Years*. "Obscene, brutal, boring and dreary drive!" was the headline on a *Daily Telegraph* report this week, which said that Susan Hill and Val Hennessey, two of the judges, thought British entries were substandard, violent or obscene, or full of dreary self-obsessions such as marriage breakdowns. The others on the shortlist are *Spinsters* (Pagan Kennedy), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (Amy Tan), *Evless Eden* (Marianne Wiggins) and *The Book of Colour* (Julia Blackburn).

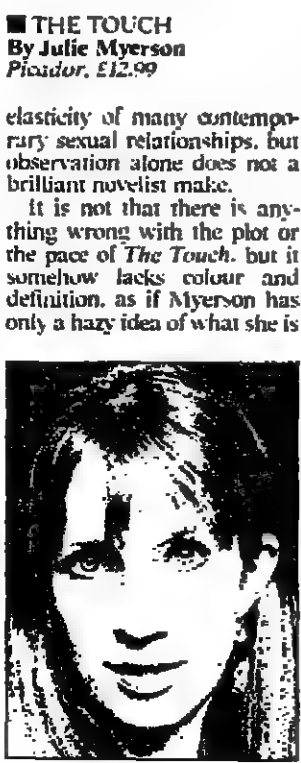
Preaching to the unconvinced

I CAME to Julie Myerson's *The Touch* with a certain amount of scepticism. Myerson writes a regular column for *The Independent* which is so smart and imaginatively thin that I found it hard to believe the same woman could produce a novel worth reading.

She has, although that does not mean that I enjoyed it very much. In fact, *The Touch* left me feeling thoroughly depressed. It is a bleak and strangely directionless novel in which the life of Frank Chapman, fanatic preacher and healer, becomes entwined with those of two sisters, Gayle and Donna, his brother Simon and Donna's boyfriend, Will. Frank lies bloodied and supposedly beaten on Clapham Common. Gayle, Donna and Will rescue him, and Gayle, a nurse, accompanies him to hospital, where she slowly befriends him as he recovers.

During his conversations with Gayle, Frank reveals himself to be a right nutter but he is convinced that he can heal Donna, who has a mysterious spinal disorder. Gayle and Will, who are almost more desperate than Donna to find some kind of cure for her, are prepared to go to any lengths, and they finally persuade Donna to see Frank, with bizarre results.

Myerson is clever to have chosen a wildly implausible situation in which to demonstrate how desperation determines the actions of otherwise ordinary people, and sends them veering towards choices which are neither practical nor sensible but passionate and illogical. She writes well about desire, sex and the sad



Myerson: disengaged

driving at, and even then her heart is not quite in it. She seems curiously disengaged from the narrative and the prose, which is a pity because from time to time she displays real flair.

This is not a bad novel, but it lacks conviction, and why so many people have made a fuss about Myerson I cannot quite see. I have not read her first novel, *Sleepwalking*, but it won her great acclaim so I probably should. However, if her second is anything to go by, all I can honestly, summarily, say is this: over-rated.

MARY LOUDON

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Fear and loving

GOOD writers for children of eight upwards can bring fantasy and menace into a story without sinking into the horror genre. Bad writers cannot. Anne Merrick succeeds in *Hannah's Ghost* (Spindlewood, £9.95), an insight into a lonely child's imagination. From ten-year-old Hannah's persistent "story-telling" grows Morphy, a sinister clown only she can see. At first frightened, Hannah learns that poor Morphy is completely controlled by her stories — and that she can only exorcise him by providing a happy story for him to live in.

Michael Morpurgo's *The Butterfly Lion* (Collins, £9.99) ends on a delicately ghostly note but also has a satisfying sense of bravery and companionship rewarded. This poignant love story of a boy, a girl and a lion torn apart then miraculously reunited in war-torn France draws readers of eight and up into a first understanding of the horror of war.

For younger children, Why? (North-South Books, £9.99) is an off-beat, wordless essay on war by Russian Nikolai Popov; and the adorable Smurfs' *Pride* winner

Much by Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury is now in paperback (Walker, Books, £5.99) — everyone in a large Afro-Caribbean family wants to cuddle the baby so much that at last he falls asleep cutely in his cot. Not for tough guys.

We are seeing a *Babe*-induced surge in sheepdog stories such as *Benedict Blathwayt's Kip — A Dog's Day* (Julia MacRae, £8.99). Look out for a crow boom too, with John A. Rowe's weird but touching *Baby Crow* (North-South, £5.50) and Rafik Schami's *The Crow who Stood on his Beak* (North-South, £9.99). My-baby-and-four-year-old both love Jacki Wood's inventive *Bumper to Bumper — A Traffic Jam* (Frances Lincoln, £8.99).

Lastly, Angela Wilkes has compiled the perfect couch-potato antidote: *The Amazing Outdoor Activity Book* (Dorling Kindersley, £8.99) which will last through the spring, summer and beyond with brilliant answers to that awful "outdoors is boring" whinge from seven-pupers.

SARAH JONES

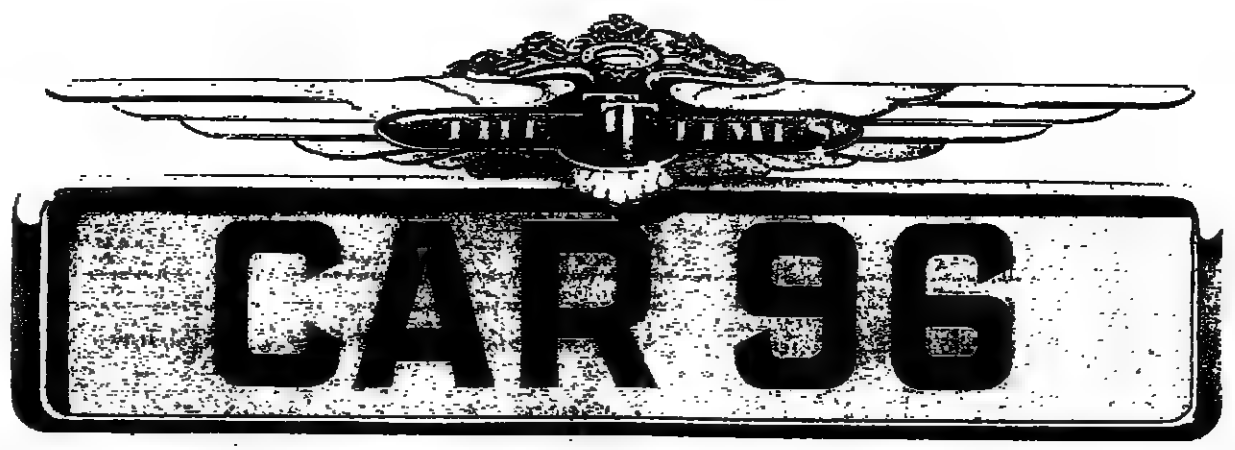
الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية



When it's tough to be a teen angel



The best car to have when your daughter breaks a leg
Page 10



Your last chance to enter our driving contest
Page 7

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver 1996

SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

How drugs can really smash you up



The drink-driving message is getting through, especially with the young, but, says Alan Copps, the police need a new test for another problem

The search is on for a roadside drug test similar to the breathalyser because of a growing belief among police and motoring organisations that drugs, legal and illegal, play a far greater part in accidents than has previously been suspected.

Every driver killed on Britain's roads in the next two years will be tested for drugs as well as alcohol under a study launched by the Department of Transport in an attempt to gauge the true scale of the problem.

But police believe more urgent action may be necessary. Their concern has been heightened by research in Strathclyde, which revealed traces of drugs in 11 drivers out of 52 involved in fatal accidents. That survey was carried out after an officer investigating one fatal crash could find no explanation for a driver's behaviour. There was no trace of alcohol in his blood but a series of drug tests established he had been under the influence of temazepam, a powerful tranquilliser that can be legally

prescribed but which is widely abused and sold on the street as "eggs" or "jellies". This prompted a re-examination of evidence in 51 other cases.

"It is a real concern. It's not just illegal drugs. We want to know more about the effect on drivers of prescribed drugs or even things like cold cures," said David Williams, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the powerful traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

"We believe that, with young drivers especially, the drink-drive message is getting across. Surveys show a much greater awareness of the dangers. But we don't think the attitude is the same where drugs are concerned."

Seven years ago, the last time the Department of Transport carried out its own research, the conclusion was that drugs were a fairly minor problem compared to drinking and driving. But a number of social studies since then, as well as crime statistics, suggest that while alcohol has become much less socially acceptable among young

people, the use of recreational drugs such as amphetamines, cannabis and cocaine has become much wider.

Earlier this year the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology estimated that across the European Union at least 4,500 road deaths and 135,000 serious injuries each year could be drug-related.

Although the figure for road deaths in Britain last year — 3,665 — was one of the lowest on record, chief constables are still concerned that a large proportion are avoidable. For example, tests show that 14 per cent of all fatalities are alcohol-related. Apco recently agreed that drivers involved in accidents should be routinely breath-tested.

The main problems in devising a similar test for drugs are the wide variety of substances involved and the lack of data for deciding at what level many of them impair a driver's ability.

Wipes are already available that can detect the presence of cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy in a driver's perspiration on the hands, or even on a

steering wheel. But different wipes are required for each substance and even then it is a long way from detecting the presence of a drug to bringing a successful prosecution. Under existing powers police would have difficulty proving that the level of intoxication was sufficient to impair driving.

Problems become even greater when it comes to drugs that can be obtained over the counter or on prescription. Even changes in hospital practice have compounded the problem. Anaesthetists have expressed concern about patients driving home after day surgery which may have involved a general anaesthetic. Such operations have become much more frequent in recent years as the health service fights to clear waiting lists.

Unlike their predecessors, which often necessitated at least a one-night stay in hospital, modern anaesthetics do not leave a "hangover" feeling so doctors are concerned that many patients are driving before the effects of the drug

have worn off, risking injury to themselves and other road users.

Similarly with prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and anti-depressants there is a fear that familiarity may dull the effect of warnings. "Chemists are often very good at reinforcing the warning that drugs may make you drowsy or affect your judgment when they first supply a prescription. But people may go on taking such medicines for years and simply forget the dangers," says Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC.

According to statistics gathered during the Institute for Human Psychopharmacology's study, which was carried out by experts in 12 European countries, 17 per cent of motorists involved in accidents (not just fatal ones) in Britain are found to have taken drugs. These included antidepressants (5 per cent), cannabis

BEWARE FUMES THAT CAN LEAVE YOU HELPLESS

Knocked out by a blast of instant fresh air

It was 7am on Thursday. I rolled out of my hotel bed and was hit smack between the eyes by a fast-moving bedside table. Dazed and confused I attempted to stand, but the cheap beige Axminster came speeding up to greet me, writes Helen Mould.

Two blows on the head in as many minutes, not a good start to the day. I wish I could blame my intimate drinking partner, Mr Jack Daniels, for my intoxicated state, but the real villain was probably the unlikely figure of Mrs Mogg.

Evidently my hotel had fumigated the room with an industrial strength air freshener after I'd complained that it smelt of smoke. The fumes were powerful enough to send me floating around the ceiling with *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* all night. In the morning the bathroom mirror revealed marshmallow eyes staring back at me. But here's the real problem — by 8 o'clock I was clearly not fit to drive. I cannot be certain, but I suspect my reactions were slow and my attention span short. Yet it was perfectly legal for me to hop behind the wheel of my car and float off about my business.

My experience might have been an unusual one, but there are a lot of other drugs that can render a driver unfit or impaired without much warning. Experts believe that over-the-counter drugs such as cold treatments, cough medicines and hay fever cures are responsible for hundreds of accidents, because motorists are unaware of their effects.

Edmund King, the RAC's Head of Campaigns, says: "Consumers need clear information and advice on the dangers of driving when taking medication. At this time of year, millions of people are taking traditional cold cures, and will soon be buying sedative antihistamines for hay fever and breathing disorders that are common in the summer. All these can affect driving."

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CAR 96

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON
A12 Eastern Avenue, Wandsworth. Construction of M11 link road continues, reduced to a single lane eastbound between the Redbridge roundabout and High Street.
A3 London Bridge. Major roadworks are resurfacing the north-bound carriageway to one lane.
A41 Finchley Road, Camden. Major resurfacing between Fortune Green Road and Frognall Lane causing long delays in both directions.
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue over the Lea valley viaduct.
A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley. North Circular Road reduced to one lane at various locations between the A1 Falden Way and Colney Hatch flyover. A roundabout has been installed at the Finchley High Road junction.
SOUTH-EAST
M1 Bedfordshire. Lane closures northbound, between junctions 10 and 12.
A509 Buckinghamshire. Major roadworks on the Wellesborough Road in Olney, at junction with Lavendon Road.
A35 Hampshire. Lane closures are in place eastbound for roadworks in Southampton between the Rushington roundabout and Redbridge flyover.
A41 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on the North Western Avenue in Watford, just north of the Dome roundabout.
A249 Kent. Major works at the Stockbury roundabout west of Sittingbourne cause lengthy hold-ups between the M2 and Kingsley Bridge.
A3 Surrey. Daytime lane closures in both directions between Compton and Thursley.
M25 Surrey. Two sections of widening work, with lane closures and contraflow, between junctions 6/8 and 9/10.
SOUTH-WEST
M4/M5 Avon. Work on second Severn crossing continues, with restrictions around the Almondsbury & Aust interchanges and also on the M5 around junction 18.
A4 Avon. Occasional temporary lights in place for roadworks in Salford at junction with Bath Road and Manor Road, affecting traffic in both directions.
M5 Bristol. Lane closures in both directions between junctions 17 and 20 for strengthening of the Avonmouth bridge.
A381 Devon. Long-term roadworks continue in Teignmouth between Salcombe Dip and Inverleigh Drive with occasional temporary lights.
A3 Hampshire. Roadworks and temporary lights on Southampton Road in Gosham, near Allway Avenue.
M5 Somerset. Contraflow at junction 23 for major roadworks with southbound entry slip road closed.
A350 Wiltshire. Lane closures in both directions between Chippenham and junction 17 of the M4 cause delays to traffic in both directions.
MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A608 Cambridgeshire. east of Coates. resurfacing and repairs between Gravel House and Goosetree with 20mph limit.
A1075 Norfolk. Shipham. Temporary lights between Dereham and Watton, with 30mph limit.
A6 Leicestershire. Major road-

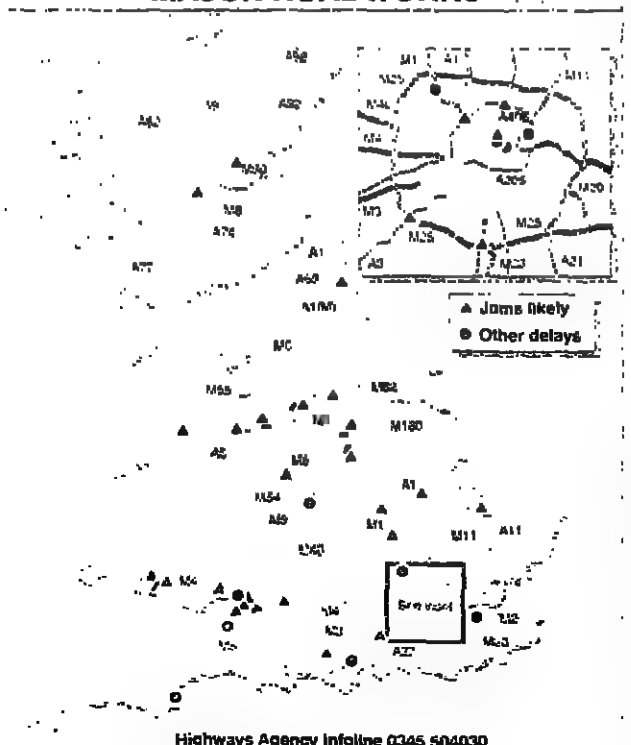
works and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of M1 and Sawley Island.
A14 Northamptonshire. Delays likely just east of the A605 junction at Thrapston due to improvement works on the layby.
M1 Nottinghamshire. Lane closures northbound approaching junction 28, the junction for the A52 for better repairs.
M6 Staffordshire. North and southbound entry slip roads on to motorway closed at junction 11 while work is carried out on the A460. Diversions are signed.
A5041 West Midlands. Contraflow on Newton Road at Great Barr in Birmingham.

NORTH
M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 21.
M62 Cheshire. Westbound link road to M6 (junction 10) down to a single lane as roadworks continue at Thelwall.
A5063 Greater Manchester. Major roadworks and lane closures on Trafford Road near junction with Pomona Strand.
A610 Greater Manchester. West Gorton. Pottery Lane closed near railway station as major roadworks continue.
A630 South Yorkshire. Major roadworks and contraflow on the Rotherway at Canklow, between junction 33 of the M1 and Rotherham.
A6023 South Yorkshire. Low Road, Conisbrough closed at junction with Sheffield Road.
A167M Tyneside. Northbound lane closures on the Newcastle central motorway near Jesmond Road interchange.
M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at end of motorway at junction 47.

WALES
A550 North Wales. Narrow lanes and 40mph limit for construction of interchange. One lane closed southbound during the week between 9.30am and 3.30pm, and on Saturdays between 9.30am and 1.00pm.
M4 South-east Wales. Work continues in connection with second Severn crossing between junctions 22 and 24.
A547 North-west Wales. Bridge repairs with temporary lights near A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.
M4 South-west Wales. Roadworks on roundabout at junction 47. Expect queues back on to the motorway exit slip roads.
A483 South West Wales. Contraflow and lane closures on Fabian Way, Swansea, from Elba Crescent to junction with the Earlswood lights.
A48 South-west Wales. Construction work on all approaches to Wychtree roundabout at Morriston.

SCOTLAND
A8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks affecting all approaches to the Maybury roundabout.
M8 Glasgow. Lane restrictions westbound at junction 16 with carriageway down to three narrow lanes.
A1 Lothian. Roadworks in both directions just west of Bankton roundabout.
M8 North Lanarkshire. Major roadworks in both directions between junctions 5 and 8.
M90 Perth and Kinross. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.
A749 Dalmack Bridge. Glasgow closed southbound.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



It's a single track with blind bends, cows, sheep and mud: the speed limit is 60mph, the same as for an A road

When accidents occur on the quiet

Three miles north of my house is a motorway, one mile south is an A road. Neither of these stretches of tarmac holds any fears for me: both are straight and well-maintained.

But the route to either main road is single track. There are blind bends: sheep, cows, backpackers, farmers, dogs, cars and pheasants are among the hazards. Mud, spread by tractors and cows (mud and sane), provides in winter a surface that would test Torvill and Dean.

In a dozen spots within a mile of my house an oncoming car is impossible to see until it is 20 metres away (that's around 60ft in old money). Yet there is no law to stop me driving at 60 miles an hour. The limit on the wide, straight A road? Exactly the same.

Rural roads are the most dangerous in Britain. The Department of Transport does not keep statistics for accidents on rural roads specifically, but in its figures for accidents on non-built-up roads, the section "other roads" gives 1,375 accidents in 1994 against 7,966 on non-built-up B

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

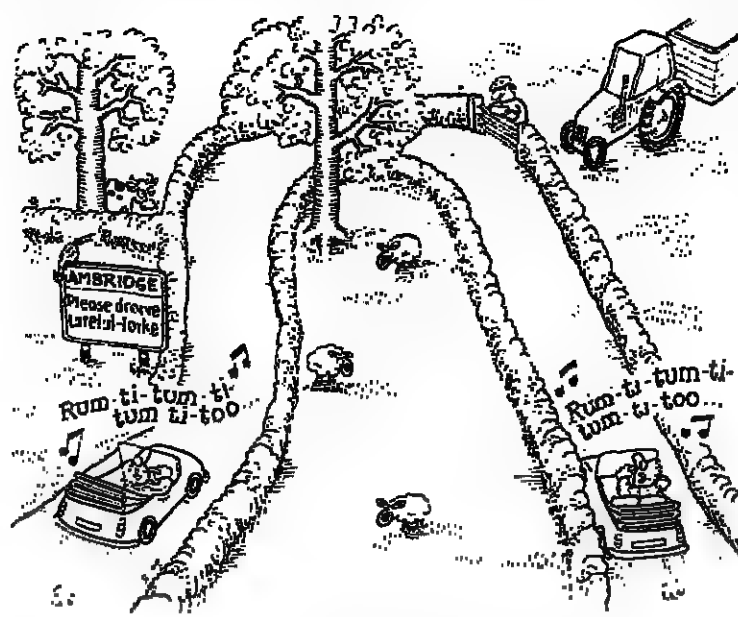


Peter Barnard

roads. There were 33,818 accidents on non-built-up A roads, but of course these carry much higher volumes of traffic.

You may well think that the key problem is death on the roads, and that in this respect motorways are a much worse problem. You would be mistaken: in 1994, there were 1,990 deaths on A roads, 455 on B roads and 746 on "other roads". Motorway crashes killed 135 people.

Neither do these figures take



account of unreported accidents. Most of those on rural roads do not involve injury: I can recall at least six such in my area in the past year or so. Allowing for the vast difference in traffic volume, this means that my three-mile journey to the M4 is infinitely more dangerous than anything I face when I reach it.

So it is plainly nonsensical to have a 70mph limit on a three-lane motorway and only 10mph less on roads where it is impossible for two cars to

pass without one climbing up a hedge or bumping along a muddy verge. Why is nothing done?

The reason is publicity and perception. Spectacular crashes make the television news and bring out publicity-seeking MPs. "Something must be done" is their clarion call and often, something is. Something daft, usually.

"Volvo Estate Hits Tractor" is not the stuff of national publicity, even if someone dies. Yet there are enough

idiots charging about in the countryside to cause the carnage that the statistics reflect. All too often these accidents bring no prosecution because the police would have to show that a person was driving dangerously or carelessly. Traveling at 58mph on a single-track road is not of itself an offence.

Much as I am anti-legislation, an offence is what it ought to be. The Government could easily amend the Road Traffic Act on one sheet of A4 to impose a speed limit on single-track rural roads.

What should this limit be? I have spent several hours this week cruising around country lanes and reckon 35mph is about right. Even at this speed the stopping distance is about 95ft, too far to avoid an encounter on a blind bend, but let's not take this matter to the point where we would be overtaken by people walking their dogs.

You will now tell me that such a limit cannot be enforced, and you are right. But I retain a touching faith that most people take notice of speed limits, if only to the extent that they do not exceed them by very much.

So I shall send a copy of these thoughts to Richard Needham, my own MP, a wonderful man who would not do anything just for publicity. For one thing, he is not standing at the next election. I trust that his farewell gift to the nation will be drafted on one sheet of A4.

Left to reflect on the cost



"On both occasions, the mirrors were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but I had to replace them completely," says Roger Evans

Roger Evans has suffered the fate of most motorists and clipped his wing mirrors with luxury cars, including a BMW, a Porsche and several Volkswagens. "People have higher expectations from these cars and, quite rightly, are quick to complain when things go wrong," says David Walker, a senior trading standards officer.

Evans admits that his complaint is more irritating than appalling, but it will find sympathy with thousands of others who have been forced to replace expensive parts when a minor repair should have sufficed.

The first time the mirror was damaged in a car park and I had to pay £225 to replace it. I bit the bullet," he says. "But the second time I decided to point out how stupid and wasteful this is. On both occasions, I was left with wing mirrors which were 95 per cent perfect with a tiny area damaged, but had to replace them completely."

The damage had occurred when the mirror on his E320 Cabriolet had been pushed

backwards instead of forwards. The mirrors, which normally happen in a collision.

During a lengthy correspondence with Mercedes-Benz, Evans was told: "Owing to the aerodynamics of the car and the need to ensure that wind noise is not created by these mirrors at speed, it has not been possible for our

Tony Dawe on holes in the Mercedes myth



designers to permit them to deflect towards the front of the car to any great extent."

David Regard, UK customer services manager, added that the matter had been raised with Mercedes-Benz HQ in Stuttgart but "they are unable to provide us with a solution for the problem or make the damaged parts available separately rather than as a complete unit."

David Price of Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan, wants more than a free wing mirror after his problems. "I bought a new C-class Mercedes when it first came out in October 1993 but the boot soon became a complete rust bucket and I sold it back to the dealer in January last year," he says. "I was assured the same problem would not occur twice, and on February 1 last year paid £25,000 plus finance for a new C200 Elegance. It, too, has rusted badly and you can see daylight through the boot area."

He consulted trading standards officers and called for an RAC inspection, which reported:

"The engineer was somewhat surprised that a vehicle of this build quality and age should have numerous areas of seam bleed and surface corrosion evident in the boot area."

Price says: "This saga of two new rusting C-class cars sold to the same person over a period of two years explodes the great Mercedes myth that their cars are the most well-built in the world. The company has offered to repair the damage under warranty, but I would prefer to trade the car back and spend more money on an E-class in the hope that those models do not rust."

The company has declined to agree to a deal. A spokesman said: "It is most unusual for this type of problem to occur on our vehicles. In Mr Price's case, we have been able to identify the source of the problem as water leaking into the boot via the offside light unit area and can rectify it to bring the vehicle back to factory standard condition."

Two years ago 678,500 breathalyser tests were carried out in England and Wales, of which 14 per cent were found to be positive. In the same year, 1,000 drug tests were carried out — following negative breath tests — and in 90 per cent of cases proved positive.

Some American states known to have drug problems use a "urine bus" in which drivers can be tested for a variety of substances after random stops. But legislation would be required before roadside screening could be introduced here. With existing methods it can be several days before the result is known if tests are to be carried out for more than one substance.

The RAC and AA support attempts to agree a European, three-tier warning system for medical drugs so that consumers are clear which drugs pose a driving hazard. The scheme would adopt a first stage to alert patients which drugs could cause mild side effects, especially if taken in conjunction with alcohol; a second stage for drugs that should be avoided before driving; and a third stage for drugs dangerous to take before driving and should carry a drug-drive penalty.

Continued from page 1
(4 per cent), antihistamines (2 per cent) and amphetamines (1 per cent).

"While many of the drug-positive motorists involved in accidents are also found to be over the alcohol limit, there is a consensus among pharmacology experts that the use of banned narcotics and some medication drugs when driving makes involvement in an accident twice as likely," the survey concluded.

Conrad King, consultant psychologist to the RAC, says: "Drugs have a two-fold effect on anyone who uses them. It can be both physiological and psychological. Either of them can impair the user's ability to drive."

"With stimulant-based drugs, motorists would actually feel they were better drivers while under the influence, but they would become much more likely to drive recklessly and dangerously. With depressant-based drugs they would lose any real anxiety about dangers on the road and would not be able to react quickly to changing conditions. With hallucinogenic drugs reaction times will be altered and ability to operate the vehicle will become erratic."

"Drug drivers may feel like better drivers in their mind but in reality their ability can be fatally flawed."

Two years ago 678,500 breathalyser tests were carried out in England and Wales, of which 14 per cent were found to be positive. In the same year, 1,000 drug tests were carried out — following negative breath tests — and in 90 per cent of cases proved positive.

Some American states known to have drug problems use a "urine bus" in which drivers can be tested for a variety of substances after random stops. But legislation would be required before roadside screening could be introduced here. With existing methods it can be several days before the result is known if tests are to be carried out for more than one substance.

The RAC and AA support attempts to agree a European, three-tier warning system for medical drugs so that consumers are clear which drugs pose a driving hazard. The scheme would adopt a first stage to alert patients which drugs could cause mild side effects, especially if taken in conjunction with alcohol; a second stage for drugs that should be avoided before driving; and a third stage for drugs dangerous to take before driving and should carry a drug-drive penalty.

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While others talk about bodywork style and engine power, Helen Mound sends three reports from the interior

Fabrications of designing women

The seat covers for one in four cars in Western Europe were conceived in Derbyshire

While the man is discussing miles per gallon, torque and such mechanical matters with the salesman, the woman may well be looking at the new car's seats and wondering who chose the fabric and colour scheme. In many cases, it was another woman.

Based in Somercotes, Derbyshire, Guilford Europe produces fabrics for seating, headlining, door panels, sun visors and even parcel shelves. One in four Western European cars is trimmed with their fabrics.

"Interior fabric needs to echo the image of the car. In a concept car that means something futuristic, perhaps bold, but not alien, because it has to be welcoming," says Rita Hicklin, who, with Cathy Bass, Linda Paly, Helen Scott, Alison Slater, Nikki Downes and Beatrice Frishkorn make up not only Britain's most popular automotive textile design team but also the only all-female one. "We haven't found a male designer good enough," laughs Ms Hicklin. Their portfolio includes designs for Ford, Rover, Nissan, Toyota and Skoda.

"Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design for a new car," adds Ms Hicklin. "Some have a clear idea of colours and patterns, others let us guide them with new designs. The key element is listening to the clients' triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober."

Designing a new car seat fabric looks like a lot of fun. The designers take inspiration from just about anything. "You can see a pattern in most things you look at — wrapping paper, photographs, even clouds. We put a small portion of our pattern idea on paper and scan it into a computer then we can enlarge shapes, reverse patterns, repeat designs several times."

Like the majority of automotive design, auto textile



Rita Hickling, centre, and her Guilford team: "Each client has a different way of finding their ideal design. The key element is listening to the triggers in the image profile, such as young, professional, fun, sober"

designing is mostly computer based. The team's most recent addition, Nikki Downes, who joined Guilford straight from college, can vaguely recall what pencils and paper are for. "We did a little design work on paper at college."

Using weaving software the designers decide which weave to use — tricot, flat woven, pile circular knit or pile woven — programme in the number of yarns and colours, and the computer takes care of the rest. A disc carries the information from computer to loom which then produces 20 metres of the designer's new sample. Last year the team produced as many as 2,580 samples.

Meanwhile, Guilford's laboratory tests new weaves and yarns for quality. Textile tests include an abrasion test involving a large wheel that rubs the fabric 50,000 times to check for wear; an age test under harsh light; a stretch and set test to ensure the fabric can cope with the tension when it's put on the seats; and a weight-bearing test to see what it can tolerate before tearing.

Once a fabric has passed the designers' and the technicians' approval, the team starts work on an annual presentation of colours and patterns which they show to all major European car manufacturers.

"We've developed a reputation for being quite quirky and original," explains Catherine Bass, senior designer. One of the team's most novel ideas is using themes to present new patterns. It's Helen Scott's responsibility to put together this year's presentation boards.

Last year we used films as themes. This year it's restaurants. 'Tea at The Ritz', 'Ice-cream parlour' and 'Oyster bar'. For each theme we make up two collages depicting the colours and images it inspires. Traditionally, we use an autumn palette. Winter is too dull and spring

too washed-out for car interiors, and a bold summer palette is only suitable for a few hatchbacks and concept cars."

The Tea at The Ritz presentation boards display colours for executive and family cars, ice-cream parlour colours are for youthful hatchbacks and the oyster bar displays all the new colours and designs for concept cars. This is the first year the designers have moved away from bright colours for concept cars and are using soft pastel shades.

"We take most of our inspiration from the fashion industry, which dictates colour trends, but we're also influenced by the fabrics that are in fashion," says Ms Hicklin.

Research shows that flat woven fabrics are the most popular choice in Europe, while American motorists prefer velours, which is advantageous. "Flat woven gives us greater scope for pattern, which is what Europeans are demanding. A pattern in a high pile fabric such as velour is very costly, but US tastes are conservative and they prefer plain velours," explains Ms Hicklin.

Tastes may change, however, in the next few years with a new technology for printed velours. "We hope to have a lot more freedom to be creative with designs on velours using printed patterns."

Projects for the team usually span a four-year period. "We're working on interiors that won't be seen until the next millennium, but that doesn't mean we have plenty of time to work on designs. Clients normally expect samples within three weeks, so we have to move fast, finding the correct yarns, dyes and weaves to suit the suggested designs."

Like most creative types, the designers enjoy seeing their work on the streets. "I remember when I saw my first design in a car, I wanted to stop the driver and take a closer look," recalls Cathy Bass. "It's strange because we design around 10 samples for one derivative of a new car

and once the client has made a choice we don't know how it will be used on the seats. Then four years later you suddenly see it in a car, on its own or coordinated with something else. It's quite exciting."

Fifteen years ago car manufacturers offered two interiors, cloth or plastic; now the choice is vast. Interior design plays a major part in the success of a new car. As Ms Hicklin puts it: "Motorists and manufacturers are demanding greater individuality, but aerodynamic properties are forcing new cars to look the same, so distinctive designs can only come from the interior, which is where we come in."

Seating problem 1: expert analysis of what's wrong

A wave of court cases against employers who provide company cars with seats that cause back problems is set to change the way fleet cars are chosen.

A growing number of company car owners now consider a comfortable driver's seat more important than the usual tempting trim levels. In the past 12 months at least ten cases against employers have been brought to court by company car drivers who suffer severe back problems caused by long hours in poor car seats.

Mark Porter, Vehicle Ergonomist at Loughborough University, isn't surprised that motorists are turning on their employers. "Any company car driver who spends more than two hours a day behind the wheel should be provided with a decent car seat that ensures a good posture, otherwise they will develop back trouble, which ultimately is the employer's problem."

Research at the university has shown that people who spend more than 21 hours a week in a car or drive 25,000 miles annually are at risk of serious lower back problems and likely to be absent from work for up to 50 days a year. Even those who drive less than 10 hours a week or cover just 5,000 miles annually will probably be absent up to a week each year recovering from back pain.

"If fleet buyers think they can't afford to invest in cars with better seats, they should look at what their company is losing in absenteeism for back problems," says Professor Porter.

The research also revealed that older drivers report less discomfort than younger motorists, which is thought to relate to the more expensive cars — with better seats and greater adjustment features — that older drivers generally choose.



Mark Porter: "Seats developed for comfort have been badly altered to look more elegant"

Lawsuits that come in fleets

The Vehicle Ergonomics Group at Loughborough University has researched car seating since 1981 and has evaluated more than 100 cars. When it comes to postural comfort and how car seats can be made to suit motorists of all shapes and sizes, Professor Porter knows all there is to know. Standing 6ft 3ins, he has his own problems finding a car that's suitable. "I've had the Porsche 911, which is great for long-legged people, since 1982."

He has thought of compiling a list of models with good and bad seats, so that motorists can avoid the cars that will result in back trouble and consider those that would suit their stature. "A

good seat should ensure a good posture, rather than just feel comfortable." His research has revealed that not all seats that feel uncomfortable initially are the culprits, but some that feel great at first can eventually cause problems.

"We've found some aches and pains take 75 minutes to develop, so it's important drivers who spend a lot of time behind the wheel take a test drive that lasts at least two hours," he says.

In many cases however, motorists don't get a say in the choice of their company car let alone a test drive, which is why Professor Porter expects to see an increase

in law suits against employers who put drivers in poor seats. He recommends legislation to protect people who drive as part of their job.

"For years ergonomics in the office has been taken seriously. Companies understand that a carefully planned workstation is important for staff productivity and comfort. Now they need to learn the same is true for those workers who spend the majority of their time in the car."

"Legislation would ensure employers had to provide each driver with a vehicle suitable for their individual needs as well as the demands of the job."

"It's still common to find seats being sketched by designers who have no knowledge of anatomy, physiology or the basic principles of seating and these sketches sometimes influence the final result. I've seen seats we've developed for high levels of comfort badly altered just to look more elegant."

At ease with your new car

● **ARE YOU** going to be sitting comfortably — however long the journey — in that gleaming new car? These are some of the points to check when seeking the ergonomically correct.

● **ENSURE** you can get a good posture in the seat before you consider how comfortable it is.

● **LOOK FOR** seats with a high degree of adjustability. Seat adjustments help to ensure that you can select your initial optimum posture and change it if necessary during a long journey.

● **CHECK** what sort of lumbar supports are provided. Your back will be your most vulnerable area.

● **TEST** the positions of gearstick and control buttons. Make sure you can sit in a position that means you can reach them without undue stretching.

● **IF YOU** are going to travel long distances or spend more than four hours a day in a car, try to arrange a test drive that lasts at least 75 minutes.

● **DON'T** tolerate any inconveniences such as offset pedals or a high steering wheel.

● **FINALLY**, remember that there will be times when you won't be the only one sitting in the car for hours on end. Take the whole family on a test drive to ensure that it suits everybody.

Seating problem 2: pain of a victim



Joe Cooke: "Companies wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat"

Miles of discomfort

Joe Cooke, a sales engineer for Shell, is one company car driver who is debating the importance of a good car seat with his employers.

"I have to choose a Citroën Xantia, Ford Mondeo or Rover 400, but they all agitate my back," he says. "My old Rover 600 isn't on the list any more, but it gives me backache anyway because the pedals feel offset."

Mr Cooke is regularly behind the wheel four or five hours a day, and his back has become so painful that he often spends whole days recovering from long drives. "I've done 100,000 miles in this Rover, that's an awful lot of sitting badly, and I'm afraid a new car will give me more problems."

He decided to test drive all the cars that came within the company's budget and found his ideal car seat in the Alfa Romeo 155. "It gave me support in all the right places, the foam is a comfortable density and it has an

effective lumbar adjuster." But he hasn't managed to convince his company that his back is a more important matter than their mass fleet purchases from Citroën, Ford or Rover.

"Companies that force their drivers into unsuitable car seats are likely to end up with RSI [repetitive strain injury] type law suits against them. They wouldn't dare force a secretary to sit in a poor seat, so why do it to a driver?"

Mr Cooke's argument with his firm goes further than just looking after his health though. "It goes without saying if companies make their drivers comfortable, they'll be happier and more productive. I know when my back is sore the last thing I feel like doing is working."

Professor Porter comments: "Only if company drivers convince their fleet buyers there's a problem, and they then put pressure on the car manufacturers,

will the situation change. Fifteen years ago the motor industry didn't believe safety would be an important issue for car sales, now the same is true of ergonomics."

The problem is that ergonomics is always the last feature to be considered by manufacturers. Car design starts with exterior styling and seat designers have little or no say regarding headroom, legroom or driving package. They have to make the best of what they get. Which means the steering column, pedals and gearknob are put wherever there's space, and the legroom is whatever is left over."

His ambition is to work on a car that is ergonomic-led. "It would be great to produce a car that considers exactly how old, what size and what profession the intended motorist will be, so that the ideal driving position, interior space and adjustable features can be applied."

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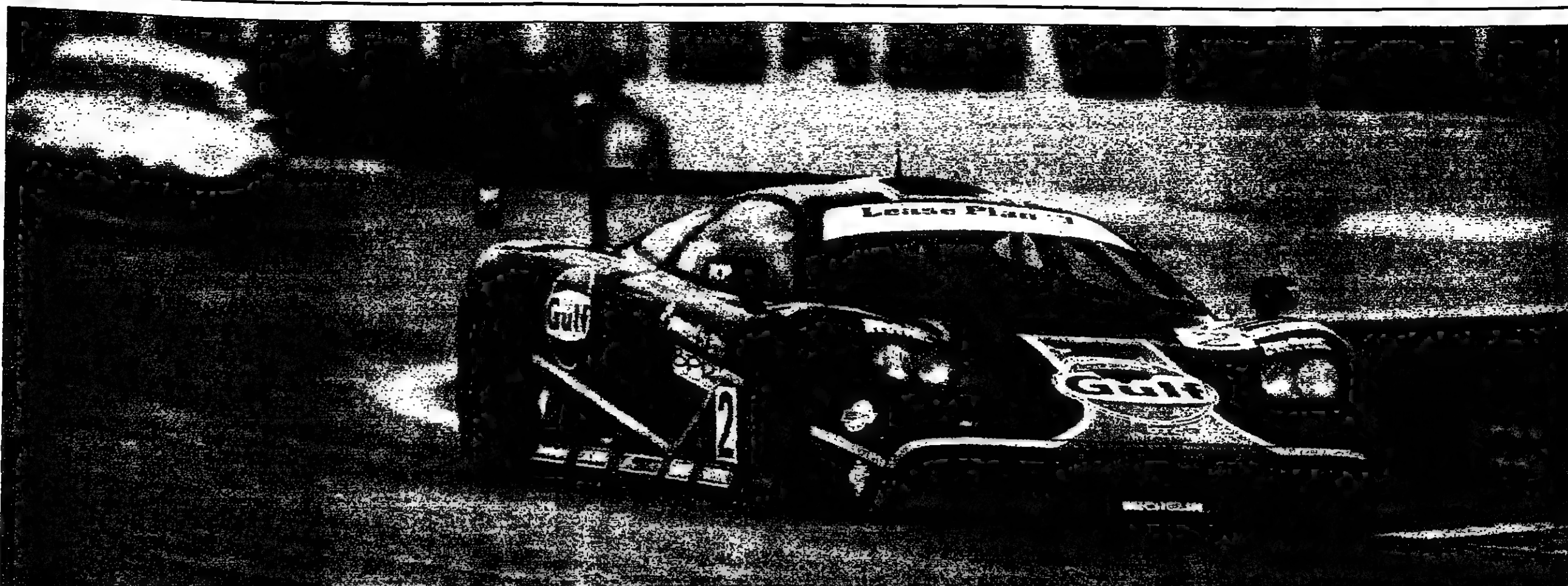
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High gear in Provence: the McLaren F1 GTR on its way to victory in the first race of the championship season at the Paul Ricard circuit in what is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team can win international honours

Big Mac to go; at high speed

The Big Mac is back — not the beleaguered beef variety, but one of Britain's most sexy and successful exports. The 1996 McLaren F1 GTR is the latest supermodel to step out on the sports car racing catwalk, fresh from the gym, lighter, faster and packing 600bhp of pure BMW V12 fantasy.

The winning car from last year has been refined for this year's clutch of road users and badged as the LM to mark its victory at Le Mans, but McLaren still needed to produce a car to build on last year's coups on the European circuits. This is it as close to Formula 1 as mortal sports cars can get. The LM offers 630 brake horsepower; this car has 667, although new air intake restrictions, rein the power in to 630, with maximum revs at 6,700rpm.

With three rounds of the BPR Global Endurance GT championship gone, McLaren is back where it belongs at the head of the field. The Gulf Racing team achieved a one-two in last weekend's four-hour round at Spain's Jarama circuit to add to its victory in the first race at the Paul Ricard circuit in France. Another McLaren won the intervening round at Monza, Italy.

That opening round was the 1996 GTR's first proper road test, in the experienced hands of Gulf Racing's James Weaver, 41, and Ray Bellm, 45. But it was no occasion for the faint-hearted. The team had just a week to get the car ready while the Ferrari and Porsche teams were buffing their aerodynamic hardware.

Endurance racing, with its season including the legendary 24-hours at Le Mans in June is enjoying renewed popularity this year, with the stalwarts Ferrari and Porsche battling it out with McLaren for the honours. It is perhaps the only class of racing where a private rather than a factory team stands a chance of taking international honours.

Its folklore, built up since

the days of the Bentley boys, speaks of the smell of the grease, the whiff of benzene and Bollinger and the pain of prolonged battle, dulled only by the promise of victory. But modern motors have made it a lot more businesslike.

When I joined Weaver and Bellm just hours before the first race for their discussion of tactics, the mood was as relaxed and convivial as Sunday tea with the vicar.

Bellm studies the circuit as we might dispassionately contemplate a weekend drive to the seaside. "Traffic is the problem here," he says, "with 51 cars on the grid. There will be 30 top-flight drivers. Some of the others are, to put it politely, a liability."

Weaver agrees: "This isn't about 20 laps and knocking people off; it's technical, and any minor error can be very costly — there are no easy ways to win. Two of the Porsches I know I can trust; professional drivers allow themselves to be overtaken and not lose time, but an amateur panics and is likely to do something daft to stop you getting past."

Both have a surgeon's eye

Fresh, fast and the stuff of fantasy.

Simon Hacker sees (and hears)

the McLaren F1 GTR demonstrate

its powers of endurance on the track

for what is required. At the Signes bend, which finishes the longest straight stretch in the series, they have to lose 60bhp in 70 yards. Maximum speed here, says Bellm, is about 180bhp. Some braking.

Last year's frustrations for Gulf at Le Mans frequently remind them that luck plays a huge role. Perhaps that's why, despite their technological edge, the drivers retain the odd superstition. Weaver refuses to wear anything but his own self-designed helmet and Bellm has a pair of "winning" gloves he just can't let go of. "Seriously though, when you're sitting in the car, you have to go with your gut feelings," says Weaver. "If you don't want the team's choice of tyre, you don't have them."

Still less is left to luck when it comes to food. From a mobile canteen that spends the year crawling from circuit to

circuit, Charles and Lucie Skipwith run the catering and hospitality for the entire team. And while it is their responsibility to see that Gulf guests dine in style, the real priority is to the boys in the pits.

"The team gets through a massive amount of food — they need big portions and they need it now," says Lucie. On the night before the race, the team's success in rebuilding its second car, the 1995 McLaren, damaged that day during practice, owed much to Lucie's cottage pie, served piping hot among the socket sets, at 1.30am. No such indulgence for the drivers though: "It's very important that they are kept on a high-energy diet for 24 hours before the race... potatoes, pasta, not much meat — and absolutely no alcohol."

Enthusiasts will tell you about the cars, about the

women, about the excitement of it all, but what they never let you in on is that these cars produce a cacophony of sound loud enough to make your ears bleed. Come to a BPR race and forget your glasses, your picnic hamper but forget your earplugs and you're flitting with total deafness.

At the Signes bend, where every sinew of the cars pulls back to snapping point, the sound hits you like a glass wall. Here you realise the McLaren's secret trump card. The GTR's rumble may be designed to do all sorts of clever things with downforce, but it has the physiognomy of a leering gorilla. Steering the nose of an F40 past these deep-throated red pupils must be too forbidding to contemplate.

Evidently it was. After a nudge from behind, Gulf Racing lost its 1995 car, piloted by Frenchman Pierre-Henri Raphanel and Lindsay Owen-Jones, who in his spare time runs French multi-national L'Oréal. But 2½ hours into the event, with Bellm now at the wheel, the 1996 car grabbed a three-second lead.

It might not sound like much, and given the complications of pit-stop delays, the lead is hardly discernible from the paddock. Throughout the four-hour drama the pit crew show impeccable discipline, punctuated only by feverish bouts of activity as the cars limp in for rubber and oil. Their work area is a carpeted lab. All is kept as it should be under the eye of operations director Michael Cane. His stern professionalism may have earned him the nickname Dr Death, but there is a tinge of affection in the term: everyone agrees that a misplaced air-hose is a capital offence.

At the podium, and after so much slog, comes the big anticlimax. There's not a drop of champagne in sight. The French, I'm told, never allow it at their events. The only real show of emotion comes with

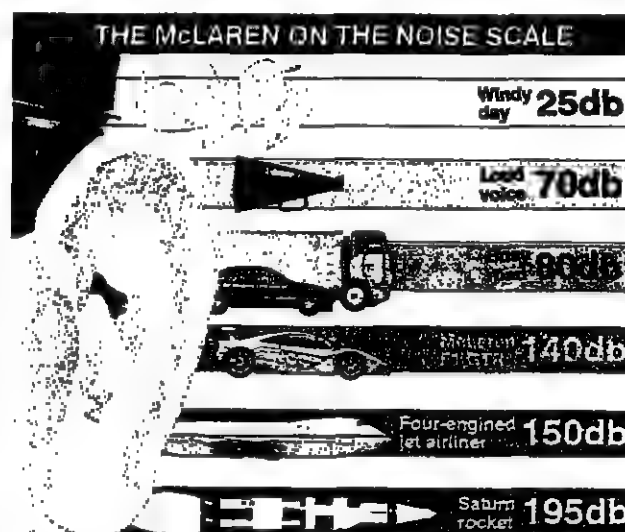
Bellm's decision to throw his team-liveried cap into the crowd. Backstage BPR presents the winning duo with some Provencal glassware; there are no big cash prizes to be won.

In the second round, Gulf was able to field two 1996 GTRs, but a fuel leak prevented the Lindsay Owen-Jones/Pierre-Henri Raphanel car from starting and the Bellm/Weaver car was in a challenging third position when it was eliminated after a close encounter with the eventual winner, another privately entered McLaren driven by John Nielsen for the West racing team.

The third round at Monza last weekend really showed the excitement of these races, an early phase of Ferrari dominance giving way to an all-McLaren battle with both Gulf cars initially chasing the Harrods-entered car driven by James Wallace.

Tyre strategy made the difference, with Weaver getting past the Harrods car with just five minutes of the race remaining. In the closing moments Wallace was forced off the track after a collision involving a pursuing Ferrari, which allowed Raphanel to take second place.

As the true professional Weaver, sums up the excitement of endurance racing: "You know what the best thing about all this is? You get paid for it, too!"



● FOR ANYONE who has doubts about the acoustic abilities of the unsilenced McLaren GTR, a small boy near Donington has an interesting tale to tell. The incident happened, an insider tells me, when Gulf Racing took the 1995 car to a local Gulf station for a forecourt promotion.

● "When they started it up to leave, they forgot about the potential of the car. The sound blast rebounded under the canopy of the forecourt and blew the small boy off his bike."

● Wood's Practical Guide to Noise Control — something of a bible among environmental health officers — cites 140dB as the noise level you get when "standing thirty metres from a military jet aircraft at take off. Described in subjective terms as intolerable."

● McLaren's engineers say that the 1996 GTR produces,

at full flow, 140dB. So if you intend to see it in action this year, be warned. Environmental health officer John Pullin of Stroud District Council told me: "One hundred and forty decibels is on the threshold of pain — if I was near this car I wouldn't like to be without some decent earplugs."

● Gulf Racing spokesman Charlie Ricketts told me that because 100dB marks the critical threshold for noise pollution complaints in the UK, test runs on the GTR at Bruntingthorpe had to be silenced.

● "This car is certainly a chunk louder than the Porsches. In the UK, most circuits like Silverstone are OK, but people are more treacherous about these things than they used to be — they buy their homes next to circuits and then complain about the noise."

UPDATE

If you need advice to judge a fine racing driver, then sign up a novelist, writes Kevin Eason. Tess Stimson, the writer whose book *Pole Position* is definitely not about grid placings, has dashed into the lead in our celebrity F1 Fantasy Drive Competition.

Her team, Blazing Saddles, seems to have the perfect combination of flair and points-winning consistency. Her top driver was Jean Alesi — not the man to win the world championship perhaps, but the best points scorer because of his ability to overtake, improve his position and finish.

The result, after two grands prix at Brazil and Argentina, was that Alesi was the top driver with 225 points, followed astonishingly by Olivier Panis on 224, then Damon Hill's 223. Damon lost ground for F1 Fantasy drivers because his results were a bit of a foregone conclusion.

Jonathan Palmer, BBC's grand prix commentator, turned out to be a smartypants by jumping into second place with the safe bets of Hill and Villeneuve. Barrichello all coming through for the red, white and blue of his Team Palmer Promosport. Chris Rea, the Northern rock star famous for his *Road to Hell* hit, clearly knows his Tarmac, jostling into third place.

F1 Fantasy Drive celebrity league update: 1. Tess Stimson: Team Blazing Saddles, 1,290. 2. Jonathan Palmer: Team Palmer Promosport, 1,268. 3. Chris Rea: Team RTH (The Road to Hell), 1,239. 4. Louise Atkin-Walker: Team Aiken-Walker, 1,226. 5. Stirling Moss: Team SMART, 1,224. 6. Nick Mason: Ten Tents, 1,218. 7. Sir David Speed: Team Steelers, 1,191. 8. Lord March: Goodwood, 1,182. 9. CAR 96, 1,131. 10. Carol Vorderman: Vorder's Men, 1,122.

Audi makes light of weight penalty

Alan Copps on Frank Biela's flying start to the Touring Car season

This is the view of Audi's A4 quattro which Frank Biela expects to show to his rivals again in the second round of the British Touring Car Championship at Brands Hatch tomorrow.

Audi, the new boys in one of the most closely-contested race series in the world, made a sensational debut at Donington Park, Derbyshire, on Easter Monday when Biela, who holds the Touring Car World Cup, won both races in the first round.

The Audi overcame the weight penalty imposed because of its four-wheel-drive as Biela headed home in both 18-lap races more than a second clear of Will Hoy in his Renault Laguna.

John Bintliffe, from Yorkshire, who was recruited to the Audi team after winning the Ford Fiesta championship last year, finished sixth in the first race and fourth in the second, a confidence-boosting result after a spectacular practice crash last month. The Volvo S80 of Rickard Rydell, which

took pole position in the first race spun out spectacularly on the first lap but managed third place in the second race.

Biela, who had been careful pre-season not to overstate Audi's chances, was delighted with his win. "I'm optimistic about Brands, too. The circuit's not too difficult and our car works well there," he said.

The fortunes of the Audi team will be followed throughout the season in Car 96. Among the spectators at Brands Hatch will be the winners of our competition in the April 6 edition. Paul Morgan of Wheatley, Oxfordshire, and a guest will be given VIP treatment at Audi Sport's hospitality base and will also receive Audi Sport watches and badges. Ten runners-up will get Audi Sport watches, flasks and badges.

The winners were chosen from more than 250 entrants. The correct answers were 1) John Cleland is the current BTCC champion; 2) Ford is the most successful BTCC team, with more than 200 race wins



Follow my leader: the A4 quattro looks for another date with victory at Brands Hatch

since it first entered the series; 3) The logo used on all Audi's four-wheel-drive cars is quattro.

Cleland, incidentally, struggled with the new Vauxhall Vectra but eventually finished fifth in the first race and sixth in the second at Donington. He is one of a group of drivers,

including those from the BMW and Honda teams, who will be out to provide stiffer competition for the Audis at Brands Hatch.

After the Donington race Biela has 31 points, Hoy 24, Kelvin Burt (Volvo) 14 and Bintliffe 13. In the manufacturers' championship, Audi

has 30 points, Renault 24, Volvo 20 and Vauxhall 16.

There will be further competitions during the season in Car 96, with prizes including places on Audi's safety and performance driving schools both in Britain and at the Nurburgring Grand Prix circuit in Germany.

F1 Fantasy Drive update

THE TIMES
F1

Below we print the total points scored by each of the drivers in our competition after the Brazilian and Argentinian grands prix as well as the leaderboard showing the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager.

TOTAL FANTASY POINTS AFTER ARGENTINA GP		LEADERBOARD		
Group A		01 1348	Duplax 4 Racing	K Holmes
01 M Schumacher	173	01 1348	Rabbit Racers	I Harvey
02 J Alesi	225	03 1347	The Fiat Woe Fishes	G Lusher
03 D Hill	223	04 1346	The Frost-Wite	P Widdison
Group B		04 1346	Knight V10	N Knight
04 E Berger	111	04 1346	HIT's Heroes	J Radford
05 E Irvine	218	05 1346	Team Acronym	J C Farrow
06 J Villeneuve	159	06 1344	Duplax 4 Racing	K Holmes
07 M Hakkinen	140	06 1344	The Red Racers	Mrs P Bray
08 H. Frankton	90	06 1344	The Skidmarks	A McKenna
09 M Brundie	125	11 1340	Golden Ring	P Renshaw
10 R Barrichello	180	11 1340	Willow Wonders	Mrs S Wilkins
11 J Herbert	146	13 1338	Thames's Terrors	T De Souza
Group E		13 1338	Agua Lung	B Meg
12 M Solo	155	15 1335	Formulation	Mrs C Harding
13 P Lamy	147	16 1334	Riverside Racers	C T Savage
14 P Dintz	150	17 1333	Brown Bear Racing	Mrs J E Matthews
15 U Katsuyama	143	17 1333	No Team Name	A Sokolovski
16 J Verstappen	131			
17 O Panis	224			
18 T Marques*	40			
19 R Rosset	53			
20 L Badoer	127			
21 A Montanari	143			

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0521). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Brazilian and Argentinian Grands Prix and will be updated again on Tuesday April 30.

CALL 0891 774 734 24HRS

*Phonics 7 bonus

CALL 0891-774 734 24HRS

0891 calls are charged at 30p per minute cheap rate and 48p at all other times

Change your selections

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below which is open 24 hours a day (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the present transfer period otherwise your transfers will be invalid. If you made a transfer last week you cannot make another call this week. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032 UNTIL NOON THURSDAY APRIL 25



Hilton Holloway investigates Rover's little-known top model

A very British coupé de grace

Asked the identity of Rover's flagship motor, we are all likely to answer "800 Sterling". In fact, for the past four years Rover's price list has been headed by the mysterious 800 coupé, a car few have heard of, let alone seen.

Rover's would-be rivals, BMW and Mercedes, are immensely proud of their upmarket coupés and it is with such cars that reputations are made. So it is bizarre that, after going to no little expense in drawing up a two-door 800, Rover has done so little to publicise the fact.

All that is set to change with the introduction of two new 800 coupé models which could make a mark on the UK's executive car market. For a five under £30,000, Rover's most expensive car is now the KV6-engined coupé. This powerplant — the pinnacle of Rover's award-winning and much-praised K-series engine range — replaces the old 2.7-litre Honda unit.

The other model, new to Britain but already sold in Europe, is the 197bhp 2.0-litre turbocharged Vitesse. This is a five short of £26,000 and therefore something of a bargain on paper. Apparently, the Vitesse coupé has been successful on the Continent, especially in style-conscious Italy.

Whether newly-alerted UK buyers will see the 800 as classically British remains to be seen. I was surprised that the 800 coupé looked so good considering its age and strange gestation. Originally it was destined to wear a Sterling badge and aimed primarily at the US market. Rover stylists, led by Roy Axe, drew up the coupé with export in mind and it's obvious they succeeded in summing up all that's good about British design for foreign palates.

The top-of-the-range KV6 I drove was a model of good interior practice. Although the instrument binnacle looks dated, it fails to detract from the effect created by classy beige trim, superb leather



Rover 800 coupé: all that's good about UK design for foreign palates

800 coupé KV6 manual: Price: £29,995. Engine: V6, 2.5-litre, 175bhp; 0-60mph 8.2 secs, top speed 135mph, 33.4mpg.
800 coupé Vitesse: Price: £25,995. Engine: Four-cylinder, 2.0-litre, turbocharged, 197bhp; 0-60mph 7.3 secs, top speed 143mph, 34.9mpg.

ROVER 100

● The smallest models in the Rover range have also been given a facelift. Two new versions, the Knightsbridge and Knightsbridge SE, replace the IIIi, IIIiS, IIISD and Kensington special editions.

● Prices range from £6,595 for a three-door, 1.1i Knightsbridge to £11,995 for the two-door cabriolet.

● All Rover 100s now have door beams to protect against side impact and options include a driver's airbag for £245, said to be the lowest-priced on the market.

● There is a choice of three or five-door body styles with revised trim



and just five colours, White Diamond, Kingfisher Blue, pearlescent Amaranth (purple), Nightfire Red and Tahiti Blue.

● The SE version has body-coloured bumpers, a tilting sunroof and remote central locking. There is a choice of engines from the 1.1-litre K-Series to the 1.5-litre diesel.

seats and dark green carpeting. Having driven the new KV6 engine before in combination with an automatic box, I was amazed at the difference a manual shift made. It allowed the engine's fine performance to be fully exploited and encouraged swift, and therefore, safe overtaking manoeuvres.

But the 800's ageing dynamics are a problem. The manual box may encourage sporty driving, but the chassis doesn't. It's safe and secure, but rather uninspiring and is occasionally given to the odd loud suspension crash over really poor surfaces. The 800 coupé isn't a super-quiet cruiser either, with mechanical noise and wind whistle from around the pillar-less windows and wing mirrors. However, the really attractive propo-

sition looks like being the far more sporting Vitesse coupé. I tried this combination in 800 saloon guise, as right-hand drive coupés are still a couple of months away. The four-cylinder turbocharged engine is extremely muscular and provides a satisfyingly effortless turn of speed. More importantly, Rover's chassis engineers have transformed the 800's undercarriage into a genuinely sharp and crisp performer. The upshot is a very satisfying drive. Best of all, the Vitesse coupé will be £4,000 cheaper than the less powerful KV6.

Perhaps the biggest argument for the 800 coupé is its rarity. Drivers who want to stand out in the executive car park, and still buy what is now essentially an all-British car, will be more than pleasantly surprised by the Vitesse.

Serena Sutcliffe tells Andrew Pierce about her first love, an MGB in the Sixties

Vintage years in Paris

Known as the *grande dame* of the vine, Serena Sutcliffe is a senior director of Sotheby's, former chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine, a noted broadcaster and wine tasting tutor. Head of the international wine department at the auction house, she was only the second woman to pass the Master of Wine examination.

Next month she will be auctioning in Bond Street a unique set of seven Methuselahs, one of the finest Burgundy lots to have been catalogued. There are only six sets in the world and it is the first one to come to auction. The asking price will be up to £40,000.

Serena, who drinks wine every day, has a favourite. "If I break down in my car, in an isolated spot, I would like to have a bottle of Louis Roederer Cristal champagne." A snip at £70.

How did you first learn to drive?

When I was 17 with a wonderful, calm instructor called Mr Cook. I was a quick learner. But I think my emergency stops shocked him a bit. I had the quick reactions of someone too young. After he sustained the third major bout of bruising to his forehead he decided I did not have to practise anymore.

What was your first car?

A divine, loveable, grey MGB GT which I bought out of my own hard-earned earnings. There is something sensual about virtually lying down to drive. It was a wow in Paris in the Sixties.

What car do you drive now, and why?

An Audi 100. My husband, David, and I have been faithful Audi owners for our 19 years of married life. We were not sold by the technology, but by the fact we could fit lots of wine in the back. They are so reliable and responsive to drive.

Do you like driving?

When it is an open road with the proverbial wind in my hair. Inch-ing along in urban traffic is not my idea of heaven. This happens on the Continent when I go on lecture



Serena Sutcliffe: "My dream car should be a Range Rover. You can get 35 cases of wine in one"

tours or wine tasting sessions. You can drive after a tasting — you spit absolutely everything out.

What is your most hated car?

It is not the cars, it is more the drivers who own them. Small Renaults and Fiats for example. They are driven at breakneck speed on continental motorways, a menace and rather cheeky as they zoom past straining every nerve.

What is your dream car?

I should say a Range Rover, because you can get 35 cases of wine in one. But the car of my dreams is the Mercedes coupé. When I was at school a German friend of my parents came to fetch me, driving the model of the time. It has been an object of desire ever since.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Talking to myself or enacting an

STEERING COLUMN

opera as it charges to its emotional climax. Fellow drivers, who glance my way, must think I am mad. Wagner's *Ring Cycle* is very dramatic. Mozart is also distracting because I am always tempted to wave and clap my hands because it is so joyous.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they sit close on my bumper or, worse still, the boot. The French and Italians are the worst. I have to work hard to resist the temptation to stamp on my brakes and blow the consequences. I refrain because I could not bear the paperwork.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

We once left London for Glyndebourne in a hurry and had to change into evening dress in a car which was stationary in a

country lane. It was a mistake. The car was small and my companion split his trousers in the manoeuvre.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No. I learnt my lesson at a young age. I was pulled up by the police, soon after I got my licence, for attempting to overtake in a less than suitable place. It brought me down to earth at a time when I thought that I was immortal.

What do you listen to in the car?

A huge range of music from soothing Haydn String Quartets and fifteenth-century Fayrfax Antiphons and Masses to Melchior singing Sigmund or Tristan.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Introduce massive penalties for jumping the lights. I'd install police spies and cameras everywhere.

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Stuart Birch and his daughter find an accidental advantage in the Citroën Xantia Estate

Definitely a car to have in an emergency



CITROËN XANTIA ESTATE

Engine: Four-cylinder, indirect injection turbo-charged diesel giving 92bhp at 4,000rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed manual. Front wheel drive.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.8 seconds, average 40mpg.

Safety: Anti-lock brakes, front seatbelt tensioners, driver's airbag, reinforced rear seat, high-level third brakelight, three-point belts for all rear passengers.

Equipment: Self-levelling suspension, power steering, Blaupunkt radio/cassette player with steering wheel-mounted controls, electronic sunroof, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable mirrors.

Security: Infra-red remote central locking/deadlocks and keypad immobiliser.

Seating: Height and lumbar support adjustment for driver and central rear armrest.

Price: £16,795.

Health note: Eleanor is making a good recovery.

What we need," said Dr Mike Bailey, "is that." He pointed to my Citroën Xantia Estate parked a few yards away on a muddy track. It was about to become an ambulance.

The patient was my 27-year-old daughter, Eleanor, lying on the edge of a field, swathed in blankets tucked in by a gleaming foil insulation wrap courtesy of the fire brigade. She had been riding her horse when another just ahead had suddenly kicked out, breaking her leg in two places.

Now she was in great pain and losing a lot of blood. It had proved impossible to get the proper ambulance to her over the slippery, pot-holed track. Essex fire brigade was there with a six-wheel drive Steyr-Daimler-Puch rescue vehicle, but that would have provided a very bumpy ride. However, I had managed to reach the site of the accident in the competent Xantia.

The ambulance crew had given Eleanor a painkiller but it was not sufficient, so Dr Bailey was called from Writtle, near Chelmsford. He is a Basics (British Association of Immediate Care Schemes) doctor. Basics is a voluntary organisation comprising GPs and hospital doctors who are on 24-hour standby to

provide back-up for paramedics in particularly difficult situations. They have special training for immediate care work for such things as road — and, in this case, horse — accidents. Their equipment is paid for by local fund-raising events.

Dr Bailey arrived in the fire brigade's Steyr and quickly pumped more serious stuff into Eleanor, but she was still in pain: carrying her several hundred yards to the road would be a problem.

At last, though, the morphine started to work, moving her became a possibility — and the Xantia Estate was about to take on a role that could never have been envisaged by its designers. Lowering the car's back seats proved easy enough once the headrests had been lifted out (a fiddly business in those circumstances) and, at 64ins long, 34ins high and 44ins wide, the load space was large and flat enough to take the stretcher with the tailgate open. Dr Bailey kneeling alongside her with a bottle of nitrous oxide/oxygen mixture for added pain relief.

So we set off, Eleanor still awake and mumbling: "No wheelspin starts, please." The Xantia has hydro-pneumatic suspension which is adjustable for height. I raised it to increase ground clear-



Broken leg room: Eleanor shows how folding away the seats converts the Xantia's load space for use as a makeshift ambulance

ance by 2ins as we moved forward gingerly, driving as carefully and as smoothly as I have ever done in my life.

A few minutes later we reached the road and she was transferred from the makeshift Citroën ambulance to the grown-up one, and was on her way to hospital at last.

It may not have been my chosen method of test driving a car, but the Sunday afternoon drama did demonstrate an added and unlikely dimension of the versatile Xantia's capabilities: an estate with less sophisticated suspension might

have had a problem clearing some of the humps and bumps on the track.

Raising the Citroën's height is just a matter of pushing a lever positioned between the front seats. It takes only a few seconds for the suspension system of hydraulic fluid and nitrogen gas — which is automatically self-levelling — to pump up to give added ground clearance. In extremis it is possible to raise the suspension by a total of 4ins, but stretched to that height it

is almost rock hard and the car should be driven for only very short distances.

After demonstrating its ambulance capability, the Citroën's other attributes rather paled into insignificance. But it is a comfortable, competent car. Its sophisticated suspension smooths out the bumps very effectively at any speed and it is a fine long-distance cruiser, able to average around 40mpg. There is a nine-model choice of Xantia Estates, including 1.8 and 2.0 litre petrol versions. The turbodiesel's performance is

a shade leisurely, taking 14 seconds to reach 60mph. I wanted a more responsive engine such as the direct injection turbo-diesels used by VW and Audi. While the general design is thoroughly practical, the position of its pedals is annoying: the brake is lower than the clutch and has little movement. I also felt the pedals were too close together.

The car is good-looking and offers fine value, with prices starting at £14,110 for the 1.8 litre petrol model — which in healthcare economics terms is not at all bad for an ambulance. Thanks, Citroën.

A Master of all he drives

NICK FALDO bounces straight from his US Masters success and into a Jaguar. The British golfer has signed a five-year sponsorship deal with the carmaker which starts with the Jaguar World Golf Final at Gleneagles in Scotland later this month. How much the association is worth is not known, but experts say Faldo can expect to reel in £5 million in total, thanks to his last-gasp Masters victory.

On a plate

SALES OF personalised registration plates have brought in £200 million for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency since 1989. Apart from run-of-the-mill plates, the DVLA managed to fetch £200,000 for 1A and £235,000 for K1 NGS three years ago.

Promoting sales

FOOTBALL fever is doing somebody good in the North East, even if it is not Kevin Keegan. Reg Vardy's specialist car centre on the outskirts of First Division leaders Sunderland has taken orders for ten new Bentleys in two months. General manager Martin Shaw says that the "feel-good" factor has never felt better than now, with Newcastle United, Middlesbrough and now Sunderland to meet in the Premiership next season.

Engine switch

SSANYONG is to stop equipping its 4x4 Musso vehicles with German-built Mercedes engines for versions made under licence in South Korea. The company is to announce that the first models with the new power plants will be 2.9-litre diesels and the 3.2-litre petrol which is put together from kit components supplied by Mercedes.

Victoria Day

BEAULIEU, home of the National Motor Museum, throws open its doors on May 5 for a gathering of Victorian vehicles and memorabilia, including fairground entertainment, a traditional Punch and Judy and organ grinder. Horse-drawn carriages and steam engines will be among the attractions as part of the celebration of 100 years of the British motor industry.

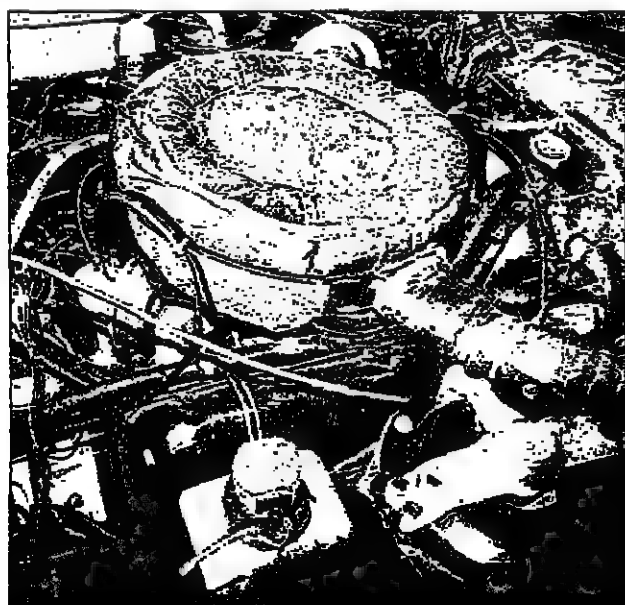
Vauxhall winner

PETER ARMER of Chorley, Lancashire, will be cheering England on in their first European soccer championship game against Switzerland next month after winning tickets in our competition, sponsored by Vauxhall.

The answers were: When did GM take over Vauxhall? 1925. Which top goalscorer was replaced by Geoff Hurst in the 1966 World Cup? Jimmy Greaves. Name the 1966 World Cup back four: Bobby Moore, Jack Charlton, George Cohen, Ray Wilson. Against which country was Gary Lineker replaced and who was his substitute in the last Euro Championships? Sweden: Alan Smith. Which was the last GM Vauxhall Conference team elected to the league? Wycombe Wanderers.

'There in the paper was a Silver Shadow — fitted with a diesel engine'

Simon Grant-Sturgis tells David Thompson about his ultimate in comfortable and stylish towing vehicles



Roller diesel: the engine conversion that has doubled the miles per gallon performance of the Silver Shadow

Simon Grant-Sturgis is the owner of a very unusual Rolls-Royce — a diesel-powered Silver Shadow. He got it indirectly through his Alan Peters group, which delivers any car anywhere in the world at the drop of a hat. More often than not though, his work involves domestic deliveries throughout Britain. After one 400-mile tow-delivery job, in a "most uncomfortable" Nissan Patrol, Simon was resting his back in the local pub with a few of his car-mad pals. He declared that what he really wanted for these long towing trips was an oldish (and therefore cheapish) Silver Shadow, one of the most comfortable cars he could think of. But to make it

economical he would somehow have to fit a diesel engine to improve on the car's original 10-12mpg.

"I looked in the paper the very next day and there she was, a 1970 Silver Shadow — with a diesel engine already fitted. I couldn't believe my luck, so I went to have a look. Fifteen thousand pounds later he parked the gleaming car in his drive.

The diesel conversion was done by Devon-based Samurai Motor Components, who import General Motors' 6.2-litre V-8 diesels from the United States. This engine's robustness stems from the basic no-nonsense American design, iron cylinder block and heads and fuss-free hy-

draulic tappets. Power is around 160bhp — somewhat less than the Rolls's original 200 horsepower. This means the diesel works at a relaxed pace and will last a long time. It also bolts directly to General Motors' GM400 automatic gearbox, which was originally fitted to the Shadow. Other requirements are just a couple of remade engine mounts, a shortened propshaft and an altered exhaust. Like all diesel cars, the brakes need assistance from an external pump and, in this case, a Citroën hydraulic unit gives that assistance. There's no road tax to pay either, as the car is more than 25 years old. Over 25 is also what this Roller now gets in mpg.

Considering the car's age, the panels still have a fit and finish that many a Forth Bridge engineer would be proud of and all the doors still close precisely with a solid "thunk". Better still, there's not a touch of rust anywhere. Although Simon has sarcastically added a "DIESEL" badge on the boot lid, Rolls-Royce never produced a production diesel engine, though they did experiment with an unreliable rotary diesel engine some years ago. The Shadow itself had an inauspicious start when it was launched in 1966. From the start the car was



Simon Grant-Sturgis and his rare Roller — and he doesn't have to pay road tax

criticised for poor handling and performance (though the ride was good) and it became clear that the design favoured the chauffeur-driven owner rather than the owner-driver.

Jumping from a Fiesta into this Roller certainly takes some getting used to, as the extra 4cwt of the Detroit Diesel makes the handling "interesting". Steering along narrow urban streets is like wrestling in a bath of baby oil — it's difficult to get a grip. In some ways it seems, you have to slow down your responses to match the Roller's. One way of achieving this would be to blend into the gentlemen's

club interior and put away two bottles of claret with a couple of hand-rolled Havanas. But it's probably better just to realise that it's not a sports car, the brakes are good, and anyway you're sitting where the chauffeur usually sits.

Certain social niceties of Rolls ownership became clear during our day's drive. When we stopped for coffee at a smart hotel, the doorman rushed to open our doors while the small Fiat in front of us was ignored. Oncoming drivers realised we were an oldie and treated us with the same reverence they

would save for a great-aunt, politely standing aside to let us pass. Best of all, people actually let us out of tight junctions, seemingly admiring the stately poise of the Rolls' rear end. Yet it is a working car for Simon. A Volvo 164 supplements his workaday business trips, but the Silver Shadow completes all his towing jobs — a testimony to the strength of the original design and its workmanship.

"Has it ever broken down?" I asked Simon. He replied with a wry grin: "Don't be stupid, a Rolls-Royce never breaks down".

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

On April 19th 1968 the Duke of Bedford was banned for six months for "drunkenness" on the M1. Police identified him by his numberplate, DOB 1...

Accompanied by his 2007, the Duke of Lancaster won a massive £3,000 bet in July 1922 by proving his Rolls-Royce from London to Aberdeen in just 14 hours...

After colliding with another car in 1961 and causing a fire, Lord Dunsany claimed the victim had been "reconstructed by the local council" of his Rolls-Royce.

In the 1920s the aristocratic Compeer Lord Berners had a Pano Blue into the back of his Rolls-Royce.

Various small advertisements and notices, including car listings and business offers.

RENAULT

MAJOR Savings on Brand New Renaults for Private and Business Use. Renaults are the most reliable cars in the world. Renaults are the most reliable cars in the world. Renaults are the most reliable cars in the world.

ROVER

A new way to buy your new Rover. Choose from a range of models. Choose from a range of models. Choose from a range of models.

216 SE CABRIOLET

M reg. June 95. 6,700 miles. Full main service. 12 months/10,000 miles warranty. 12 months/10,000 miles warranty. 12 months/10,000 miles warranty.

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

A large selection of new registered cars. A large selection of new registered cars. A large selection of new registered cars.

SAAB

900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual.

900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

D 4

Offers over £25,000. Offers over £25,000. Offers over £25,000.

CBM 2

ROLLS ROYCE SHADOW 11. ROLLS ROYCE SHADOW 11. ROLLS ROYCE SHADOW 11.

1978 model, chrome, 14 reg. 1978 model, chrome, 14 reg. 1978 model, chrome, 14 reg.

CPD 17

BMW 635 CSi Coupe. BMW 635 CSi Coupe. BMW 635 CSi Coupe.

Automatic / cream leather. 1979 / current MOT. 1979 / current MOT. 1979 / current MOT.

MBL 713

£1,600. £1,600. £1,600.

TELEPHONE 01705 30401. TELEPHONE 01705 30401. TELEPHONE 01705 30401.

The Most Affordable And Quickest Way To Obtain Your Own Personalised Registration

B4 HAY

JUST CHOOSE ANY A, B, H, J, K, L, M OR N PREFIX, NUMBER BETWEEN 1 AND 20 (ALSO SELECTED HIGHER NUMBERS) AND THREE LETTERS OF YOUR CHOICE.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS CND MEMBERS

Lex Colindale

TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797.

SAAB

900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual.

900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual. 900SE 1995 (M) Manual.

9000 CDE 2.0

Auto, black, a/c, CO. 50,000 miles, private sale, excellent condition, AA report available. 50,000 miles, private sale, excellent condition, AA report available.

Tel: 01202 883288. Tel: 01202 883288. Tel: 01202 883288.

SAAB 900

16v S Turbo Convertible. 16v S Turbo Convertible. 16v S Turbo Convertible.

Carbon fibre, 1990 H reg. Carbon fibre, 1990 H reg. Carbon fibre, 1990 H reg.

OWC 2

On retention. On retention. On retention.

£25,000. £25,000. £25,000.

50 ER

On retention. On retention. On retention.

£25,000. £25,000. £25,000.

B16 CAR

Private sale. Private sale. Private sale.

£5,000. £5,000. £5,000.

B13 00M

Private sale. Private sale. Private sale.

£1,250. £1,250. £1,250.

MARKET RESEARCH

33 DAISY HILL, CHORLEY. 33 DAISY HILL, CHORLEY. 33 DAISY HILL, CHORLEY.

01257 482305. 01257 482305. 01257 482305.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS CND MEMBERS

Lex Colindale

TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797.

SUBARU

CHEAM MOTORS

96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5. 96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5. 96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5.

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SUBARU

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96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5. 96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5. 96 Impreza 1.6 GL 5.

SUZUKI

Vitara Sport 4x4, 94 L. Vitara Sport 4x4, 94 L. Vitara Sport 4x4, 94 L.

20,000 miles, a/c, soft top. 20,000 miles, a/c, soft top. 20,000 miles, a/c, soft top.

GRIFFITH 500

Private plate M9 TVR. Private plate M9 TVR. Private plate M9 TVR.

Racing silver, red/black full leather. Racing silver, red/black full leather. Racing silver, red/black full leather.

PWM 70

On retention. On retention. On retention.

£2,750. £2,750. £2,750.

B16 CAR

Private sale. Private sale. Private sale.

£5,000. £5,000. £5,000.

MARKET RESEARCH

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REGISTRATION NUMBERS CND MEMBERS

Lex Colindale

TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797. TELEPHONE (0181) 200 9797.

TOYOTA

RAV 4

Auto, 95A, 2.0 engine, white, stainless steel rear steps, air conditioning, low tax. All extras. 95A, 2.0 engine, white, stainless steel rear steps, air conditioning, low tax. All extras.

£18,995. £18,995. £18,995.

TOYOTA SPORTS/AUTHORISED

988 Toyota Sports Turbo Automatic. 988 Toyota Sports Turbo Automatic. 988 Toyota Sports Turbo Automatic.

1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

MR2 GT

1995, new alloy wheels, red, service history, 12 months/10,000 miles warranty. 1995, new alloy wheels, red, service history, 12 months/10,000 miles warranty.

£25,000. £25,000. £25,000.

VOLVO

940 SE. 940 SE. 940 SE.

1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

VOLVO

940 SE. 940 SE. 940 SE.

1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

LEX SOUTHBANK

TELEPHONE (0171) 252 7000. TELEPHONE (0171) 252 7000. TELEPHONE (0171) 252 7000.

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Lex Colindale

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VOLVO

440 CD

95 N, blue metallic, auto, computer, cruise control, 3,000 miles. 95 N, blue metallic, auto, computer, cruise control, 3,000 miles.

£14,900. £14,900. £14,900.

VOLVO

1992 K. 1992 K. 1992 K.

3000 miles, private sale due to relocation. 3000 miles, private sale due to relocation. 3000 miles, private sale due to relocation.

VOLVO WANTED

First call Lancashire Dealers. First call Lancashire Dealers. First call Lancashire Dealers.

0831 791979 / 0831 327808. 0831 791979 / 0831 327808. 0831 791979 / 0831 327808.

VOLVO

940 SE. 940 SE. 940 SE.

1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

VOLVO

940 SE. 940 SE. 940 SE.

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Hooper Alpe

50 Marylebone, High Street, London W1M 3AD. 50 Marylebone, High Street, London W1M 3AD. 50 Marylebone, High Street, London W1M 3AD.

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SUZUKI

DRIVE AWAY FOR £3395 0% APR

3 YEAR 60,000 MILES MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY. 3 YEAR 60,000 MILES MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY. 3 YEAR 60,000 MILES MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY.

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF 1.8

94 L, blue, 35,000 miles, PSH, warranty. 94 L, blue, 35,000 miles, PSH, warranty. 94 L, blue, 35,000 miles, PSH, warranty.

£8,500. £8,500. £8,500.

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VAUXHALL

FRONTIERA

2.4i, 80V, 94L. 2.4i, 80V, 94L. 2.4i, 80V, 94L.

1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

VAUXHALL

FRONTIERA

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1995, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine, 16v, 2.0 engine.

VAUXHALL

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VAUXHALL

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VAUXHALL

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Guy Walters reports from the Camel Trophy, a drama of giant bugs and mounting delays

When the going gets tough . . . we stop

OUR MAN SOMEWHERE IN BORNEO

■ OFFICIALS are waiting anxiously for contestants in this year's Camel Trophy race, which has proved a spectacular ordeal. Officials from Car 96 are waiting anxiously for the return of their reporter, Guy Walters, who is following the slow progress of the event.

■ The teams are now five days behind schedule, having covered only 20 miles in nearly a week along some of the toughest jungle tracks in the world through Borneo.

■ Land Rovers are having to be winched across steep ravines and through clinging mud, slowing down their progress to less than a crawl. The convoy was due to reach its final destination in Pontianak today — but hopes were fading fast that it would even get near to the finish line, such was the trauma of the journey.

■ Nevertheless, our fearless reporter managed to file his despatch to Car 96. Will Walters make it back to the office on Monday though? Here he tells his story . . .



Walters: still filing



Britons John Leach, left, and William Tapley were in good spirits, but the deeper into Borneo the convoy travelled the more hellish it became

Until a short while ago, this year's Camel Trophy was in danger of becoming a pleasant experience, reminiscent of a Sunday afternoon's drive through some Home Counties woodland. The weather was fine — hot with a daily downpour — and progress was smooth enough. The spirits of John Leach and William Tapley, the UK's participants, were high, despite the mosquitoes and Leach's viral foot infection. However, the deeper into Borneo the convoy has travelled, the more hellish and muddy the event has become.

Ironically, the troubles started on one of the island's most level roads. As the Greek team rounded a bend at 25mph, a brace of speeding Indonesian motorcyclists decided to introduce themselves to the Discovery's bull-bar. The bar remained undented; the Indonesians had a fractured arm, a broken toe and broken leg between them. Neither Leach nor Tapley, who were first on the scene, had seen bone outside skin before.

Luckily for the victims, they had chosen the right vehicle to crash into. The Camel convoy carries two doctors, who have a Defender with enough medical supplies to stock a

small hospital. It was left to Ryk Albertyn to tend to them — a grisly task of administering general anaesthetic on the spot, snapping broken limbs into place and sticking fingers into bloody holes. The local doctor eventually arrived in a clapped-out Jeep, into which he slung the victims. They were to have a literally bone-shaking ride back to what passes for a clinic.

It was a busy day for Dr Albertyn. Earlier, he had treated an American journalist who had fallen 20ft down a gully, landing on his face and leaving his nose in the middle of his forehead. He is currently undergoing facial reconstruction in Singapore.

Wednesday saw our arrival in deepest Borneo — the town of Tewah, which felt like Bond Street after a week in the jungle. The locals were astounded and delighted to see 38 Land Rovers drive through their town. The shopkeepers were ecstatic. Every case of Sprite, beer, loaf of bread, bottle of water and packet of cigarettes must have been bought — no doubt at gross mark-ups. The UK and US teams even found time to play volleyball with some teenagers. The inhabitants waved as we left; we could only reflect that they were far

more accommodating to us than we would have been if a convoy of Bornean tribesmen had marched through, say, Umoxeter. It will become a day momentous in Tewah's history, to us it was like a stop at an unnaturally friendly service station.

But Tewah was the only chink of light in the cloud. A few kilometres outside, the convoy faced the first of another series of gruelling obstacles, this time a ford followed by a steep, muddy slope. It took well into the night to overcome and we had to pitch camp on a jungle track no wider than the Land Rovers.

That night, the bugs were at their most gargantuan. Tapley and I were woken in the Discovery at 3am by half-a-dozen examples the size of birds and buzzing like motorbikes at full throttle. We tentatively waged war and sprayed enough neat repellent to all but

melt the dashboard. We thought we had won, but the next morning, one flew out of Tapley's shirt as he put it on. The locals eat them with rice — a sort of bug risotto — but we stuck to our bacon and beans boil-in-a-bag for breakfast.

The next five days were among the most tedious anybody on the convoy has ever spent. In that time, only 30 kilometres were covered. The "road", which is part of the unfinished trans-Borneo highway, is an assortment of collapsed bridges, washed-out surfaces and thickest vegetation. Although the route had been "recced" by Nick Horne, the event leader, by helicopter, he seriously underestimated the road's condition. One bridge crossing alone took 24 hours.

This involves much work for the teams, who have to toil like navvies

in sun and rain to improve surfaces, winch cars and build bridges. It entails a lot of hanging around, and many of the support drivers, journalists and marshalls merely wilt in the heat, flicking flies off their browning legs. Occasionally a journalist will help, but will only regret sacrificing his barely-earned sleep to wallow in glorious mud while it pours.

Many team members are tiring and tempers are shortening. Those once referred to with affection are now referred to in the scatological. The German pair hardly speak to each other, and everybody is annoyed with the seeming lack of effort put in by the Swiss and Canary Islanders.

But the real strain has been taken by the vehicles. Despite their hardness, the overweighted Defenders and Discoveries have suffered over the ludicrously joity

terrain. One Defender has a broken gearbox; one Discovery has a broken half-shaft. Another, which carries the heavy rafting equipment, has two broken half-shafts and a broken steering box. New parts will have to be flown in from Java. The damage to the British car is mild and typical: the right wing and doors have been shunted, the rear bumper was wrenched off ages ago and the since-repaired bull bar was twisted badly.

At the time of writing, last Monday, the convoy is five days behind schedule. Our next town, Tumbung Samba, should have been reached three days ago. At this rate, we shall arrive at Pontianak, our destination 700 kilometres away, on the east coast, by October. Efforts will have to be trebled and it may soon be necessary to let the journalists take the wheel. I hope my AA membership hasn't expired.

Precautions to avoid a nervous breakdown

Q The family wants a day out at a safari park. But I don't fancy driving through herds of wildebeest and lions. What do you think?

A You could have a lovely time, but there are a few things you should know and do before venturing out into the jungles of darkest Britain.

Q I know . . . fit bull bars and buy a shotgun or something. I've read your advice before.

A No need to be sarcastic in the surgery. You should give your car a thorough check if you want to avoid the sort of unpleasant experience some people have suffered.

Q Such as what? It's only a day out at a theme park, after all.

A Not for Craig Gordon and Claire Saunders who went to see the Lions of Longleat this week. Their car broke down and then burst into flames while the lions circled their hapless Peugeot 205. Great for the lions waiting for a cooked meal, but not so great for the couple faced between being turned to toast or providing an alternative to a meal of road cow. Which is why you need advice.

Q What? On how to run very fast when being chased by lions? What help can you offer in situations like that?

A Only the obvious. For instance, make sure your car is not going to break down: check the battery and cooling systems, make sure you have enough petrol when you enter the safari park and ensure the tyres are all in good order. Another thing, retract your radio aerial and make sure nothing is loose around the car. The doctor giggled one day at Woburn watching monkeys systematically strip the vinyl from the roof of a Metro. They just picked up a loose corner and went to work on it.

Q What do we do if everything does go wrong and we are stuck in the car being circled by hungry lions like that poor couple were?

A You could draw lots in the car and push the least favourite member of the family through the window to distract the lions while you all leg it in the opposite direction . . . although the official advice is to blow your horn to attract the attention of the park wardens, as Craig and Claire did. Actually, feeding the lions with your mother-in-law or a particularly unpleasant and sticky younger member of the family sounds quite attractive now I think about it. It could be quite entertaining and you could always have a personal sticker put in the rear windscreen of your family hatchback: "I Fed The Lions of Longleat". Quite individual, don't you think?

You know all that rubbish lying about in the garage? Sotheby's might be interested

Jennai Cox on automobilia sales

A TWO-GALLON petrol can could cost as little as £5 today — but an old one could be worth £100. Hoarders of rusting oil cans, headlamps or any other motor paraphernalia should clear out their garage and head for the Lakeland Motor Museum at Holker Hall, Cumbria, for a free valuation this weekend as Sotheby's Vintage Vehicle department goes on a motoring version of the Antiques Roadshow.

Tomorrow, three Sotheby's specialists will be ready to look at piles of car junk — from lamps to petrol pumps, enamel advertising signs, a picnic set or even the vehicle itself — in the hope of finding some motoring gems. Martin Chisholm, head of Sotheby's London car department, says a number of cars forgotten in barns and garages in years past have fetched thousands of pounds at auction; a neglected 1950s Jaguar sold for £12,000 in March,

double its estimated price. "We have discovered so many treasures in the past," he adds. "Little old ladies may have car parts lying around they do not think are of any value."

Interest in automobilia has grown since the recession when the classic car market sagged and

collectors turned their attention to accessories. Also fuelling the market are people who clear out their garages and get rid of old vehicle parts at boot sales, not realising the value of what they are selling.

Motor accessories sold by the auction house in the past include a pair of Carless Coalite petrol pump globes, which fetched £1,000 each, and a pre-war Cheltenham petrol can that sold for £185.

The motor museum in Cumbria, which features 150 vehicles and a

re-creation of a 1920s garage, was chosen as the first venue of what the auction house hopes will become a countrywide automobilia roadshow; a second is planned at the motor museum in Coventry later this year. The only cost will be entry to the grounds of the museum: £5.50 for adults and £3.30 for children. Valuations will be given between 10:30 and 4:30.

Lakeland Motor Museum 01539 558 509. Find out what was discovered next week in Car 96.



Upmarket automobilia: a 1927 supercharged Type-K Mercedes



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What a woman's gotta do

Erica Wagner travels back in time to the Kansas prairies to hear a tale of hardship and heroism with the true ring of the Old West



Whitelaw: sharp observations of Olivier and Beckett

■ BILLIE WHITELAW... WHO HE?
By Billie Whitelaw
Sceptre, £7.99
THE Coventry-born actress, celebrated for her work with Samuel Beckett, writes her own story. Whitelaw begins with her lower-class roots, remembering parental rows, her evasive years, the early death of her father. She notes key characteristics: her eagerness to please; feeling an outsider as a teenage radio star then amid the buzzing London theatre scene of the 1950s and 1960s. She interweaves personal experiences, notably a harrowing account of her son's near-death from meningitis, with her professional life which took off with Olivier's new National Theatre.

Whitelaw is not a startling writer, and the opening chapters are patchy. The prose is almost pedestrian but its virtue is frank simplicity. This autobiography is not chock-a-block with confessions or exposés. But Whitelaw does not shy away from sharp observations, mixed with fondness, about Maggie Smith, Olivier and, indeed, herself.

She becomes really fascinating in her recall of rehearsals with Beckett from his minute alterations to the gruelling practicalities of *Not I*, including a head-vice to stop the shakes. Interim chapters cover radio, film and countless directors. Whitelaw ends serenely contented, describing her love of the Suffolk countryside, of her husband Robert Muller (once a dreaded theatre critic) and her son, now a stage manager.

■ THE CUNNING MAN
By Robertson Davies
Penguin, £5.99
WHEN Jonathan Hullah, a distinguished though maverick elderly Toronto physician, is questioned about a strange occurrence of 30 years ago, he finds himself looking back with intense curiosity over his own rich yet unsatisfying life. A compelling plot involving a mysterious death, a drunken priest, broken family ties and shifting friendships is woven through with philosophical meditations on every aspect of human experience from art, religion and psychoanalysis to sex and death. An extraordinary, humane and wide-ranging novel which overflows with intellectual energy.

Contributors: Kate Bassett, Nicki Household, Hazel Leslie, Jason Cowley

PEARL EDDY will drive you to distraction. Damn it, why doesn't she see sense? Blind, recently widowed and with four sons to support, Pearl needs all the help she can get as she tries to scrape a meagre living from her farm. Her neighbours are already distrustful of her Quaker ways, and then she riles them further by taking under her wing a collection of lost souls unlikely to endear her to the likes of Simon James and his Royal Order of Redmen.

First, there is a black man, Jerome Prophet: "the Prophet of Doom" as he is known in his trade of bare-knuckle fighting; when he cannot make a living with his fists, he is not above thieving. Caught red-handed in town

and attacked, he hides in her house, kills her hen, and still she takes him in, swallowing his story about being a minister ("Mr Prophet," she calls him) wholeheartedly. As if that is not bad enough, there is a family of Chinamen too — well, they are Japanese, actually, but this is Kansas and it is 1890. They have come to stake a claim on some land, not knowing that as "orientals" their rights are voided. Someone, as Pearl sees it, has to help the Kishimotos, and it seems that God has it planned

that it should be her. But the good folk of Liberty are not in the least impressed by her charity, and before long the Royal Order are planning to teach her a lesson. It seems inconceivable that Pearl should stick by her resolve and let her farm go to ruin and let her boys be adopted by a wealthy aunt who imagines a better life for them in

Boston. It is Eddison's great achievement to make Pearl's goodness believable, and to convince us that a man scarred by and inured to violence would turn away from it at her bidding. Who would not allow her defender, Prophet, to use his talented fists on a drifter hired to rape her? Pearl Eddy, that's who.

strong enough to raise hairs on the back of your neck. The novel is flawed. It goes on too long, there are one too many miraculous escapes, and the ending — given Eddison's sharp eye for the daily horrors of frontier life — is a bit too good to be true. But these failings shed light on Eddison's origins as a writer: his prairie tales — the first of which, *St Agnes' Stand*, won the W.H. Smith "Thumping Good Read Award" in 1994 — come out of his own family's history on the frontier. As a boy he grew up listening to his parents' and grandparents' stories of a harder and more vivid life; this, his third novel, maintains the immediacy of a tale told by firelight.

A vivid journey through the imaginative mind of a supreme designer

Blasts from a master

■ BEWARE WET PAINT:
Designs by Alan Fletcher
By Jeremy Myerson, Rick Poyner and David Gibbs
Phaidon, £39.99

ON THE cover is an anecdote from designer supreme Alan Fletcher: "A marketing manager, resentful of being told by the chairman that he had to see me, made his position absolutely clear. 'I know nothing about design,' he said. 'Furthermore, I don't want anything to do with it.' He was kitted out in a chalk-stripe brown suit, a distressed-patterned tie, the glasses the colour of stewed glue, sat behind a tacky reproduction antique desk and worked in an office to match. I believed him — and left!"

Hard luck on that marketing manager and his chairman: they missed out on working with one of the most enlightened and prolific designers of the past 35 years. This book celebrates those years, with hundreds of design solutions which are witty, seemingly simple and refined. The images are depicted in themed chapters, with commentaries by Jeremy Myerson. There are also four appreciations and an interview with the designer.

DAVID DRIVER



Split face: poster design for the National Portrait Gallery by Alan Fletcher, composed by arranging details from other portraits to make a picture of the Prince of Wales

Sweepings from the shop floor

■ THE DEVIL'S CAROUSEL
By Jeff Torrington
Secker, £15.99
master "Woggle" Henshaw, "Sputnik" McQuinn (he of the 2001 clock number). Names, nicknames, jobs and stories come and go at such a pace that reading this novel is every bit as bewildering as a first day at work.

The prose is equally hectic, as Jeff Torrington indulges in his love of adjectives, puns, patter, odd contractions (such as "to've" and "from'm") and figures of speech. A cough cannot be just a cough: it is a "bronchial outburst"; a wasp is a "striped demon"; the time on an alarm clock supposedly seems as static as "a frozen stellar system".

Four years ago, Torrington won the Whitbread Prize for *Swing Hammer Swing*, the novel he had been toiling at for years and years. *The Devil's Carousel*, by contrast, has the air of a carelessly assembled, Friday-afternoon job, although it does have some fine moments — and at least it is not set on a university campus or in a writer's study.



Torrington: bewildering

Harry Ritchie

THURSDAY
Peter Ackroyd on the sexual enigma of George Bernard Shaw; Derwent May on the journals of Anthony Powell; Ben Macintyre on the first private eye; plus Philip Hensher's *Kitchen Venom* reviewed

On a formic acid trip

■ EMPIRE OF THE ANTS
By Bernard Werber
Bantam, £9.99

THIS is not, as idle bookshelves might imagine, a spin-off from the recently-ended series of television documentaries on insect life, *Alien Empire*. Then again, it could well serve as the novelisation.

Take an ordinary Parisian family and move them into a basement flat inherited from an eccentric uncle who has left them nothing else but a dire warning that they must never, never, never go down to the cellar. And what happens? Of course, they ignore the warning — or at least the family pet does — and the cellar swallows them up, one at a time, followed by a succession of policemen, firemen and sundry functionaries.

With "characters" who "talk" in smells and experience time also in terms of temperature, the key to Werber's book is thinking in more than our usual set of dimensions. To join the reader's mind in the right direction he sets a puzzle: "How do you form three equilateral triangles using only six matches?" This is an off-beat adventure story with an intellectual edge, and unquestionably the best book I have read this year.

PETER MILLAR

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GOING OUT

15

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

LONDON

After the Flood
Multi-media and photography by RCA graduates.
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-584 5020).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Unknown Impressionist
An illuminating range of paintings.
Royal Academy of Arts,
Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-439 7438). Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm;
£4.50, concs £3.50.

Desert

Empty spaces explored in multi-media show including Knut Maron.
South London Art Gallery,
Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120).
Today/tomorrow 2pm-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BLOOD, SEA AND ICE

This may be the beginning of the Nelson decade at the National Maritime Museum. But clearly the museum does not want us to forget other great British seafarers, and the present exhibition pays tribute to three more, explorers all: Sir Francis Drake, Captain James Cook and Sir John Franklin. The show actually commemorates the 400th anniversary of Drake's death, but it probably seemed politic to throw in the other two. Still, the most exciting and evocative things are in Drake's section.

John Russell Taylor
National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 4422).
Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 2-6pm; £5.50, concs £4.50.

Spellbound: Art & Film

The talents of artists and directors.
Hayward Gallery,
Belvedere Road, SE1 (0171-960 4242).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; £5, concs £3.50.

Rachel Whiteread

Long-awaited new prints from the controversial Turner Prize winner.
Karsten Schubert,

Foley Street, W1 (0171-631 0031/580 3546).
Today 10am-3pm; free.

REGIONAL

DURHAM
Fleish & Spirit Velasquez & Painters in 17th Century Madrid
Work from the Golden Age of Spanish painting.
Bowes Museum,
(01833 690606). Today 10am-5pm,
tomorrow 2pm-5pm; phone for prices.

BIRMINGHAM

George Rodger: A Photographic Journey
Images from the award-winning photojournalist.
The Gas Hall,
Chamberlain Square (0121-235 1966).
Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 12.30pm-5pm;
£2.50, concs £1.50.

LEEDS

Jasper Johns: The Sculptures
Sculptures by the pop artist.
Henry Moore Institute,
The Headrow (0113-246 7467). Today
10am-5.30pm; free.

LIVERPOOL

Home and Away: Internationalism and British Art 1900-1990
Exploration of boundaries and geographies.
Tate Gallery Liverpool,
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223).
Today/tomorrow 10am-6pm; free.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

George Baselitz
Paintings by the master of Neo-Expressionism.
Gallery,
University of Northumbria at Newcastle,
Sandyford Road (0191-227 4424). Today
10am-4pm; free.

WAKEFIELD

Max Ernst
Featuring sculpture and drawings by the influential Surrealist.
Yorkshire Sculpture Park,
Bretton Hall (01924 830302).
Today/tomorrow 10am-4pm; free.



Doorway to a Kondofan House, 1949, from photojournalist George Rodger's exhibition

COMING SOON



Miranda Richardson is Orlando in Edinburgh

LONDON AND REGIONAL BRIGHTON

May 4-26
Brighton Festival 96.
Highlights include The
Highlights of St
Petersburg in
Gaudesamus (May 7-11,
Corn Exchange
Theatre). Box Office: 01273-
709709.

EDINBURGH

August 11-31
Edinburgh 50th
International Festival.
Box-office opens today
for telephone bookings
(0131-225 5756).
Highlights include
Miranda Richardson in
Robert Wilson's adaptation
of Virginia Woolf's
Orlando (Royal Lyceum
Theatre, Aug 13-21).

May 6
Billy Bragg, The
Brotherhood, Transglobal
Underground.
Clapham Common,
noon-8pm, free.

May 9-August 18
Derek Jarman - artist,
film-maker, designer.

A Jarman retrospective
at the Barbican Art Gallery
coinciding with a
Barbican Cinema season of
his films, May 11-12, 18-
19, and 25-26. Box Office:
0171-382 7000.

May 22-August 26
Degas - Beyond
Impressionism.
Major retrospective at
the National Gallery.
Advance bookings: 0171-
430 0000.

From May 9
Sylvia.
Zoe Wanamaker plays
the title role in
A.R. Gurney's hit
romantic comedy, directed
by Michael Blakemore.
Apollo Theatre. Box Office:
0171-494 5070.

May
Ed Lang.
Philharmonic Hall,
Liverpool (May 5, 0151-709
3789); Brighton Centre
(May 6, 01273 202881);
Bournemouth Inter-
national Centre (May 7,
01202 297297); Wembley
Arena, London (May 9-11,
0181-900 1234).

FILM

Films in London and (where
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NEW RELEASES

CRITIC'S CHOICE

NELLY & MONSIEUR

ARNAUD (PG)

Claude Sautet's subtle and
tender study of an older man
and a younger woman who
edge towards intimacy. He
(Michel Serrault) is a retired
colonial judge, she (Emmanu-
elle Béart) is a 25 year-old
brimming with unfilled de-
sires. There is no sex; just
hesitations and a secret caress
wonderfully conveyed, and a
veteran director on top form.

Geoff Brown

Curzon Mayfair (0171-369
1720); **Gate Notting Hill**
(0171-721 4043); **Richmond**
(0181-332 0030); **Ritz** (0171-737
2121); **Screen on the Hill**
(0171-435 3366).

♦ Before and After (12)

Glum family drama with
Meryl Streep and Liam
Neeson as parents of a
teenager accused of murder.
Director, Barbet Schroeder.
Odeons: Kensington
(01426-914 666); Leicester
Square (01753-915 683);
Swiss Cottage (0171-586 3057).

Smoke (15)

Crisis-crossing lives in
Brooklyn. Agreeable piece by
Paul Auster, with Harvey
Keitel. Director, Wayne
Wang.
Everyman (0171-435
1525); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691);
MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); **Renoir** (0171-
837 8402); **Richmond** (0181-
332 0030); **Ritz** (0171-737 2121);
MGMs: Fulham Road
(0171-792 3332); **UCI Whiteleys**
(0171-792 3332).

♦ Twelve Monkeys (15)

Unwieldy extravaganza
from former Monty Python
collaborator Terry
Gilliam, with Bruce Willis as
the shaven-headed time-
traveller seeking the source of
a virus. With Madeleine
Stowe and Brad Pitt.
Barbican (0171-638
8891); **Clapham Picture**
House (0171-498 3323);
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-
935 9772); **Fulham Road** (0171-
370 2636); **Shaftesbury**



Michel Serrault on screen

Avenue (0171-836 6279);
Trocadero (0171-434 0031);
Notting Hill Coronet (0171-721 6705); **Odeon Swiss**
Cottage (01426 914098);
Plaza (0800-888 997); **Rio**
(0171-254 6677); **Ritz** (0171-
737 2121); **UCI Whiteleys**
(0171-792 3332); **Warner**
West End (0171-437 4343).

Unzipped (15)

Exuberant fashion
documentary about designer
Isaac Mizrahi as he
creates a new collection.
Director, Douglas Kieve.
MGMs: Fulham Road
(0171-370 2636); **Shaftesbury**

Avenue (0171-836 6279);
Ritz (0171-737 2121).

CURRENT

♦ Broken Arrow (15)

John Travolta steals
nuclear weapons; Christian
Slater tries to get them
back. Bumpous and
brainless action movie,
directed by John Woo.
MGMs: Baker Street
(0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-
352 5096); **Odeons:**
Kensington (01426 914666);
Marble Arch (01426
914501); **Swiss Cottage** (01426
914098); **West End** (01426-
915 574); **UCI Whiteleys**
(0171-792 3332).

♦ Mighty Aphrodite (15)

Woody Allen searches for
his talented adopted son's
natural mother, and finds a
tart. Engaging variation on
old themes, with Oscar-
winner Mira Sorvino.
Barbican (0171-638
8891); **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742);
Clapham Picture House
(0171-498 3323); **Odeons:**
Haymarket (01426 915353);
Kensington (01426 914666);
Swiss Cottage (01426
914098); **Phoenix** (0181-883
2233); **Ritz** (0171-737 2121);
Screen/Baker Street (0171-
935 2772); **Screen/Green**
(0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys**
(0171-792 3332); **Warner**
West End (0171-437 4343).

Small Faces (18)

Gillies and Billy
MacKinnon's marvellous
evocation of a Glasgow
childhood among teenage
gang warfare in the late
1960s, largely cast with local
talent.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352
5096); **Haymarket** (0171-839
1527); **Tottenham Court**
Road (0171-636 6148); **Warner**
(0171-437 4343).

FAIRS

LONDON
Chelsea Arts Fair
Over 35 exhibitors sell
their wares, ranging from the
traditional and the
classical to contemporary
paintings and sculptures.
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
King's Road, SW3 (0171-
352 5619). Today 11am-6pm,
Tomorrow 11am-5pm; £3.

London Book Fair
Wide collection of
secondhand, rare and
antiquarian books, maps,
engraved and decorative
prints.
Royal National Theatre
Foyer,
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928
2253). Today 11am-7.15pm;
free.
Royal Geographical
Society,
Kensington Gore, SW7
(0171-589 5466). Tomorrow
11am-5pm; free.

Third Annual
Unconvention
Spooky annual conference
of strange phenomenon with
this year's main theme
focusing on UFO's and
Government Conspiracy
and Cover-Up.
University of London
Institute of Education,
Bedford Way, WC1 (0171-
470 2407). Today/tomorrow,
phone for details; two-day
ticket £25, one-day £15.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH
Serving Suggestions
Festival of Moving Image
Media.
Filmhouse, Lothian Road
(0131-556 2044).
Today/tomorrow, phone
for details: £2-£4.

POETRY

LONDON
Galaxy of Poets from
Pakistan.
Led by Qasim Pirzada.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1
(0171-960 4242). Today
7.45pm; £8-£12, concs
available.

This Day's Delight
An evening of verse and
prose.
The Orangery, Kenwood
House,
Hampstead Lane, NW3
(0171-413 1443). Tomorrow
7.30pm; £6.50-£12.50,
concs £5-£9.50.

REGIONAL

BARROW-IN-
FURNES
The First Word-of-Mouth
Festival. American Poets and
Publishing (today 10am;
£1) and Sarah Miller
performing *Eve's Diary*
with Henry Normal (today
7.30pm; £5). **The Giant**
Book of Barrow is launched
(today 2pm, free).
Forum 28,
Duke Street (01229 820
000).

BEDFORD

Don Paterson
Poetry workshop (today
10am-3pm; £10, concs £7);
Paterson reading (tonight
7.30pm, £3, concs £2).
Bedford Central Library,
Harpur Street (01234-
269519).

RELIGION

Walking the edge -
holding the centre
The Bishop of Southwark,
the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, is
inviting parishioners to
join him for part of his 110-
mile walk through the 77
parishes on or near the
boundary of his Diocese.
This weekend he will reach
Felbridge near East
Grinstead and will then turn
westward to Charlwood,
near Gatwick, then north
through Tadworth and the
Kingston area (April 25)
before following the
Thames eastwards and
returning to Southwark on
April 26.
Further information:
Patrick Olivier, 0171-403 8686

Wallenberg Sabbath
Synagogues of all
denominations are
designating today,
Saturday, which falls between
Holocaust Memorial Day
and Israel's Independence
Day, as Wallenberg
Sabbath. Raoul Wallenberg
was the Swedish diplomat
who saved the lives of
thousands of Jews in
Hungary towards the end of
the Second World War
and today rabbis will speak of
his selflessness and invite
donations to the Wallenberg
Appeal. The appeal, set up
by the International Council
for Christians and Jews
and administered by the
Holocaust Education
Trust, is to raise money to
build a permanent London
memorial to Wallenberg.
Further information:
Michael Wohl, 0171-485 2538.

COMEDY

LONDON
Banana Cabaret
With Sean Meo, Woody
Bop Muddy, Simon Fox, Noel
James.
The Bedford,
Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-
673 1750). Today 9pm; £6,
concs £4.

Chuckle Club
Featuring Hattie Hayridge
and Owen O'Neill.
London School of
Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2
(0171-476 1672). Today 7.45pm;
£6, students £4.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

COMEDY STORE
PLAYERS
Surely the National Theatre
of stand-up, London's long-
established yet ever-alternative
Comedy Store is a safe bet
for anyone who likes to create
up of a Sunday. Tonight the
venue's star team, the Comedy
Store Players, improvise
fresh funny business. A
chance to witness Lee Simp-
son, Richard Vranich, Jim
Sweeney, Neil Mullarkey and
the impossibly amusing Paul
Merton thinking on their feet
and flexing their wits en
masse. **Kate Bassett**
The Comedy Store,
Haymarket House,
Oxenford St, SW1 (info: 01426-
914433, bookings: 0171-344
4444). Today, 8pm (doors
open 6.30). Tomorrow
8pm; £9.

Downstairs at
the King's Head
With Helen Austin, Steve

Brody and Paul Rogan.
King's Head,
Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-
340 1028). Tomorrow 8.30pm;
£4.50, concs £3.50.

Ha Bloody Ha
Featuring Sean Percival,
Matthew Hardy, Ian Stone
and Paul B. Edwards.
The Viaduct,
Uxbridge Road, W7 (0181-
566 4067). Today 9pm; £5,
concs £4.

London: Hattie Hayridge

Jongleurs Camden
Established venue plays
host to Mickey Hutton and
Dominic Holland.
Jongleurs Comedy,
Camden Lock, Chalk
Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924
2766). Today 7.15pm &
11.15pm; £10, concs £7.

The Quality Shag
Armstrong & Miller
provide an absurd slant on
life with car chases on
swivel chairs and crooners
from Vegas.

Litchmere Theatre,
Battersea Park Road,
SW11 (0171-228 2620). Today
10.30pm; £6, concs £4.

Up The Creek
Popular Greenwich haunt
features Malcolm Hardee,
Parrot, Milton Jones and
Al Murray.
Up The Creek,
Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858
4581). Tomorrow 9pm; £6,
concs £4.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM
Glee Club
With Phil Davey, Andy
Robinson, Paddy Kelly and
Ivor Dembla.
The Glee Club,
Hurst Street (0121-622
2248). Today 8.30pm; £8.50,
concs £4.

BRACKNELL
Friday Alternative
Their 10th anniversary
bash includes the Theatre of
Fruit, Tony Hawks and
John Mann.
South Hill Park Arts
Centre,
Ringmead (01344 484123).
Today 8pm; £6.

COVENTRY
The Posse
The best talent from the
black-comedy circuit.
Belgrade Theatre,
Belgrade Square (01203
553055). Today 8pm; £7-£15.

POOLE
Julian Clary
The defrocked queen of
double-entendre, in a new
guise.
Poole Arts Centre,
Kingland Road (01202
685222). Today 8pm; £11.50.

Ruth Gledhill celebrates the presence of young Christians in church

Take away food for thought



IN THE flickering shad-
ows of the darkly lit nave
in this one-time Benedic-
tine abbey, teenage girls
swung, swayed and jived
to the music. We sat on
icy cold flagstones or
embroidered kneelers
and watched. In the gloomy but
romantic medieval nave of St Alban's
Cathedral, this was a special youth
service, one of many initiatives being
used by the Church of England to bring
back its legions of baptised but alienated
youngsters. Church attendance by
young people had fallen by a third in
seven years, according to a church report
earlier this month.

As is fashionable today, the young-
sters, visiting from as far afield as
Finland, had dressed themselves as
unattractively as possible in baggy jeans,
unmattering and equally-baggy sweaters
and ungainly, clod-hopping shoes and
trainers. But at least they were in church.

Holding enormous white candles be-
fore them, priests robed in red waited in
procession in the nave as the young
women mimed the motions of a line
dance, country and then disco. We were
invited, now standing, to renew the
baptismal promises made on our behalf
by godparents at our baptisms.

"Do you repent of your sins?" asked
the Rev Nicholas Elder, vicar of Bedford.

"Do you renounce evil," he asked. "I
repent of my sins," we all responded. "I
renounce evil."

He repeated the questions in German,
and then asked all there to make a
"profession of Christian faith". The
reply: "We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

We were each given a candle to carry,
and these were lit by passing the flame

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

DEAN: The Very Rev Christopher
Lewis

ARCHITECTURE: Austere building, a
strange mixture of styles ranging from
Early English to Victorian. ★★

SERMON: A reflection on whether
there was any point to anything,
including the Resurrection. ★★

MUSIC: Remarkable chants and
hymns from a mixed choir, with some
of the most beautiful girls' voices I've
heard in church. ★★

LITURGY: Pleasant feeling of floating
freestyle through familiar forms. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: One of the
country's best cathedral restaurants is
open during the day. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Preferable to drink
or drugs. ★★

from one to another as we left the nave in
procession towards this shrine, placing
our candles before it with a prayer. We
sat on the floor once more, by the Lady
Chapel in front of the shrine, followed by
youngsters carrying their home-made
banners.

We sang enjoyable and meditative
chants such as *Jesus, remember me* and
Jubilate Deo, and listened to readings
by youngsters from abroad, their
ancient giving emphasis to familiar
words. "There are many rooms in my
father's house and I am going to prepare
a place for you," from John's gospel. "I
am the way, the truth and the life."

Mr Elder preached in a humorous and
sensitive style that was warmly received
by his congregation. "After any special
event we have to ask the question, what
was the point?" he said. He compared
this with how the first apostles might
have felt after the Crucifixion, and upon
finding the empty tomb. "We cannot
hang on to good experiences for ever,"
said Mr Elder. "We have to go out. I
leave you with the question: so what?"

Cathedral and Abbey Church of St
Alban, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Herts.
AL1 1BY (01727 860780).

♦ At a Service Near You, a collection of
Ruth Gledhill's At Your Service columns
in The Times, is now on sale (Hodder &
Stoughton, £7.99).

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April 20 1996

WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

TRAVEL

17

Palm Springs: the Hollywood brat packs have gone, Peter Hughes says. The new obsession is 'life extension'

Come back Errol Flynn, all is forgiven

At Palm Springs airport the first thing you see is a rank of wheelchairs at the foot of the aircraft steps. Each has an attendant in a white shirt and tie. The second thing is a bronze bust of Ronald Reagan on sale in a showcase. The third — and we have reached the passenger terminal now — is a golf shop beside an open-air putting green, with real grass. Health, Hollywood and golf: Palm Springs has slipped you three of its icons before you've even recovered your suitcase.

The town lies quartered like tiles on the floor of a wide desert valley 107 miles south-east of Los Angeles. Half of it is owned by the Cahuilla Native Americans who, in the 1870s, were handed huge tracts of desert by the US Government as part of the deal to build a railroad.

What began as a patronising offer, considering the Cahuillas thought they owned the land already, turned out to be one of the great windfalls of history. One century's desert is another's real estate, and the Palm Springs Cahuillas, whose rents come tax-free, are now the richest Native Americans in the US. Of the 700 known millionaires in the Coachella Valley, a third are said to be Native Americans.

Palm Springs hasn't quite discovered the secret of eternal old age but it's working on it. Even the desert tours are preoccupied with the medicinal uses the Cahuillas found for every root and leaf.

The buildings along Palm Canyon Drive look like the first ones put up in the 1930s which, in turn, were modelled on the Spanish-Californian style of the 19th century.

In winter — if that is the word in 80F — the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies plays a six-month season at the Plaza Theatre with a chorus line of "showgirls" aged between 50 and 80. Clinics of one description or another, from the Betty Ford Center at Rancho Mirage to the hospital wing donated by Frank Sinatra, fill pages of the phone book, reaching an apotheosis in the Palm Springs Life Extension Institute.

In this town, no building may be taller than a palm tree, and none is so vulgar as a motel; there are only hotels, inns or lodges. Only hotels in the valley is so bountiful that in summer, when the temperature reaches 120F, you come within a whisker of outdoor air conditioning: "mistlers" play fine spray over the sidewalks to cool pedestrians.

The sun shines every day, the air is Kodak clear, and the big, crinkled mountains loom around the edge of town as brown and dry as old punice.

FACT FILE

■ American Airlines (0345 780789) flies daily to Palm Springs from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham. Return fares start at £460.

■ American Airlines Holidays (0181 577 9066) offers fly-drive packages from £375, plus taxes. Minimum, seven days.

■ At Palm Springs, temperatures between June and September can be furnace-like, though there is little humidity. It has about 3in of rain a year. The film festival is in early January.

■ A trip into the hills and canyons is a must. *Star Wars* and *Pleasant* of the *Apes* are among the films shot here. Desert Adventures of Palm Springs (619 864 6530) runs a variety of 4x4 tours in flame-red Jeeps. You feel the guides belong to the West: they are both knowledgeable and laconic — "In these parts everything bites, sticks, stinks or stings."

■ The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway ascends a sheer ravine in the valley wall to the 8,500ft summit of Mount Jacinto. (It was built, in 1963, by a company based in Switzerland called Roll, which, deliciously, makes it the Swiss Roll company.) The area has been a film location for *Colombo* and *Mission Impossible*. At the top there are hiking trails in the State Park and, in winter, cross-country skiing.

■ For general information, contact Palm Springs Tourism in London (0171 478 5233).



Sounding a chord from Palm Springs's starry past is Liberace's pool in the shape of a grand piano. The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is on an \$11 tour of celebrities' homes

The San Bernardino Fault runs along one valley wall, but without knowing what I was looking for I couldn't see it. I felt it. Or rather I felt the instability that lies beneath it. On my first night there was a small earth tremor, but then Palm Springs has earth tremors like Ireland has showers.

There is a seismograph in the Desert Museum which people consult as casually as they would a barometer in Ballyshannon. Little else but nature shakes the place these days. In the 1930s and 1940s things were different. Clark Gable and Carole Lombard honeymooned at the Ingleide Inn and Errol Flynn built a hotel, which burnt down, where he and his cronies could roister uninterrupted. The actors Ralph Bellamy and Charlie Farrell opened the Racquet Club after the Desert Inn threw them out for keeping

Marlene Dietrich off the tennis court. The "it" girl, Clara Bow, stayed at the El Mirador, where there was almost enough "it" going on to jog the Richter scale. As the caustic columnist Dorothy Parker observed: "In most resorts you lay on the sand and looked at the stars; in Palm Springs you lay on the stars and looked at the sand."

Today the buzz and utilitarian of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course — about 90 of them — and on the site of the El Mirador there is, inevitably, a hospital.

The closest you come to the old voluptuousness is, or a \$11 Celebrity Tour. It promises the sight of up to 45 celebrity homes "up close." What you see are the walls of houses where celebrities used to live. There is Bing Crosby's wall, and the wall behind which Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress, lived with Cary Grant. "Cash and Cary," said Tom Colgan, the guide.

Jack Benny built Palm Springs' first floodlit tennis court behind a wall which was later owned by Barry Manilow; Elvis and Priscilla spent their honeymoon behind another: their bedroom can still be rented. There is the wall behind which Liberace debauched and then died. His pool is in the shape of a grand piano and an 8ft candelabra stands at the front door. "Liberace was very well thought of here," Tom said. The longest wall belonged to Liz Taylor and Mike Todd; Greta Garbo, perversely, had a wooden fence. The house of Lee Remick's brother, an architect, is the ultimate wall. With no windows, it is all wall.

Palm Springs drops names faster than trees shed leaves. Goldie Hawn and Kirk Douglas are among the stars who have houses there. Bob Hope owns three homes in the valley as well as entire mountainsides, bought before there was a market in mountains. His most spectacular property squats beneath a mushroom-shaped roof on a mountain ridge. "Bob doesn't live up there. He just parties there," Tom confided. "He can have 300 for a sit-down dinner."



6 The buzz of the tennis court has been replaced by the bromide of the golf course

architect, is the ultimate wall. With no windows, it is all wall. Palm Springs drops names faster than trees shed leaves. Goldie Hawn and Kirk Douglas are among the stars who have houses there. Bob Hope owns three homes in the valley as well as entire mountainsides, bought before there was a market in mountains. His most spectacular property squats beneath a mushroom-shaped roof on a mountain ridge. "Bob doesn't live up there. He just parties there," Tom confided. "He can have 300 for a sit-down dinner."

teily by having Celebrity Tour buses routed past your wall, you can always give an enclosure to the Living Desert Wildlife Park. Instead of the house where Spencer Tracy lived, there is the Hutchins Pond, home to the desert pupfish and given in memory of one Harley Hutchins. The black vulture lives in a cage commemorating E.J. Spielman; the acorn woodpecker owns its home to Shawn Harvego, and the late Anna Amberson Wright would be proud to think that her name is attached in perpetuity to Coyote Grotto.

At least the inhabitants of the Living Desert and their benefactors are not subject to the caprice of fashion in the same way that Hollywood veterans are. Spielman and the black vulture would seem to have a slightly more secure foothold on eternity than Gene Autry, the octogenarian singing cowboy.

The western-style Autry Hotel at the end of Palm Canyon Drive, which the star bought in 1964, has just been reopened as the Givency Hotel and Spa. It is modelled on the Givency spa at Versailles, with a French chef, formal gardens, balustrades and fragrances. Goodbye wagon-wheel bar tables, hello aromatherapy. Palm Springs' "life extension" no longer lies in being a sort of sandpit where the Hollywood brat pack played. These days the stars come from Michelin.

PETER HUGHES

● The author was a guest of Palm Springs and American Airlines.

Dream with the stars

ARTISTS, driven out by the movie colony 60 years ago, are returning to Palm Springs for the same reasons that they came in the first place: the light, the heat, the desert and the isolation.

They are staying in the same bungalows and rooms that Greta Garbo or Clark Gable once relaxed in. Investment has poured into hideaway hotels that had fallen into decline in the past few years.

The Korakia, built in 1924 and where Winston Churchill painted in an upstairs art studio, re-opened as a 12-roomed hotel three years ago. Four-poster leather beds, beamed ceilings and oriental rugs are among its features. Its owner, Doug Smith, an architect who once ran a café on the Greek island of Spetses, is host to the arts, music and film people.

In the town centre, within walking distance of the small hotels, there are 65 restaurants, compared with 30 five years ago. In 1990 there was only one café with tables outside; now there are more than 20.

"We are losing a lot of commercial properties and adding more entertainment-type properties," says Bob Weithorn, manager of the Orchard Tree Inn. "Palm Springs is getting back to the way it was."

The Orchard Tree is a small hotel on which \$1 million (about £650,000) has been spent in



Palm Springs' desert museum

recent years but which has retained its 1934 tile-roofed Spanish bungalows. Tall palms fringe the pool, once the hangout of William Holden and Troy Donahue, and now the setting for fashion photographic sessions.

At the Estrella Inn (Gable, Carole Lombard, Roosevelt) on the same road, a further \$1 million has been spent. Octagonal wooden studios with fireplaces are among the 74 fireplaces. Outside, there are 40 fruit trees, a rose garden and three pools.

Most hotels are set in lush sub-tropical grounds in the heart of the Jacinto Mountains but within a five-minute stroll to the main Palm Canyon Drive and the town centre.

Mostly they offer breakfast only, with guests walking to restaurants or cooking for themselves — most rooms have kitchen facilities, with teabags for guests.

STEVE KEENAN

● The author was a guest of Palm Springs and TWA (0171-330 0707), which flies to Los Angeles from £310 return. The Orchard Tree charges £33-£125 (£23-£110) per room from June-October, \$63-£160 in winter. The Estrella, \$65-£165 in July-August and \$75-£165 at other times (from \$93 to the end of April). The Avenida charges from \$52-£115 year-round. Hotel tax is 10.1 per cent on top.

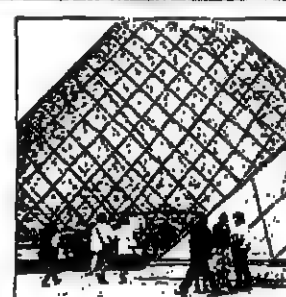
TRAVEL DIRECTORY



EXPLORING PORTUGAL

Lisbon, plus golf courses and family holidays in the Algarve

PAGES 18, 19



TO FRANCE WITH BARGAIN DEALS

How the ferries are fighting the Channel and Le Shuttle

PAGE 23



DISCOVERING BRITAIN

The Welsh capital's renaissance and castles in Yorkshire

PAGE 21

PLUS: WHITEWATER-RAFTING ON THE ZAMBEZI, PAGE 20

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Portugal: exploring charming Lisbon and the surrounding countryside, trips for non-golfers and...

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When they ask for your papers at Portuguese ports of entry, don't make the mistake of handing over your passport — it's your golfer's handicap certificate they're after. It's a popular joke, and understandable.

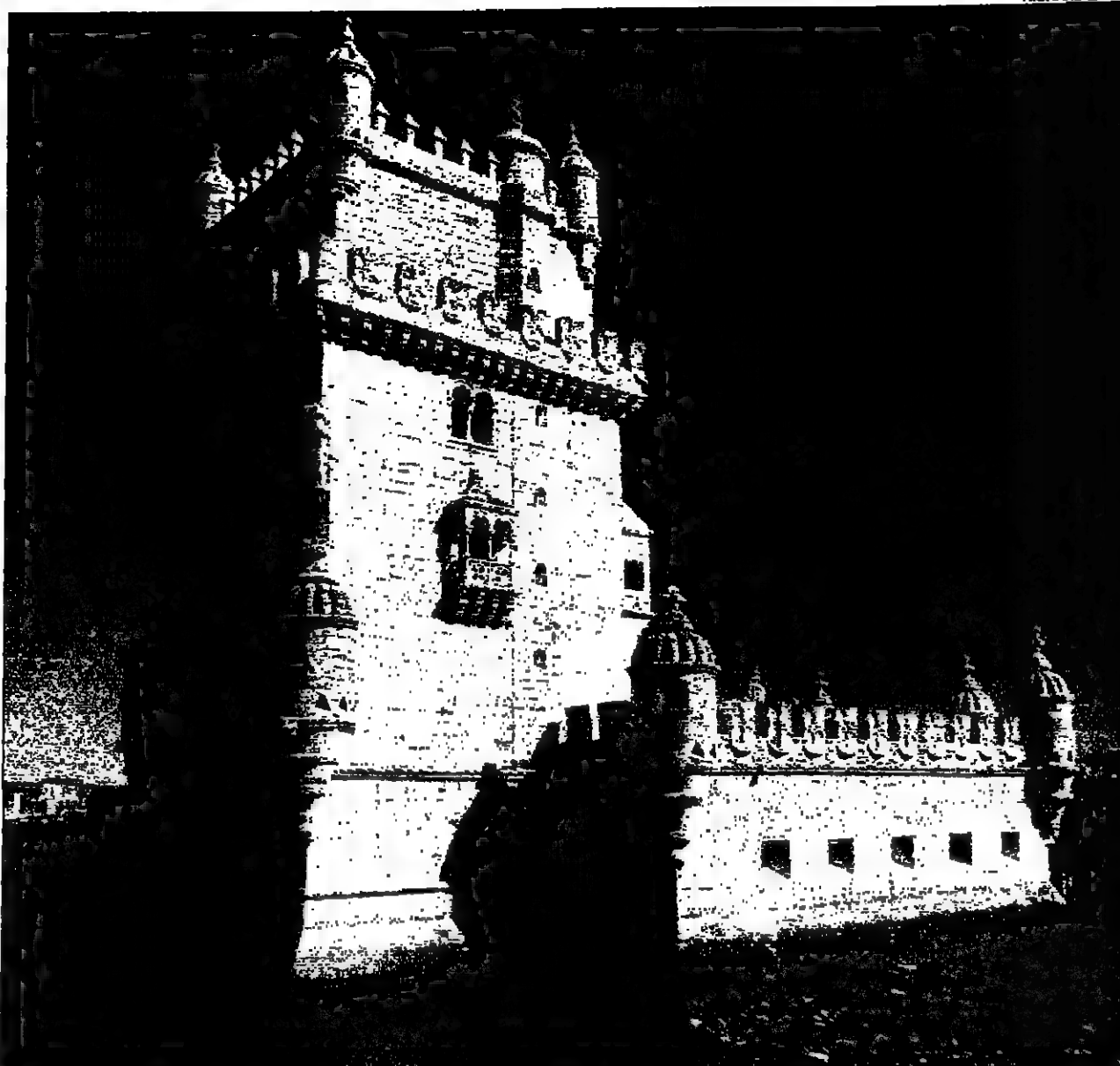
But whatever else the country's golfing boom of the past 20 years has achieved — there are 17 courses on the Algarve coast alone — it has done little for Portugal's hinterland and the capital, Lisbon, except to leave them ripe for discovery.

Some tour operators are looking beyond Portugal's fairways. "Rather like the coast in Spain, many people assume Portugal is the Algarve," says Patrick Fleming, of the Magic of Portugal. "We emphasise rural tourism in little-known areas such as the Alentejo (Beyond the Tagus)." Meanwhile, the expanding range of more than 60 *pousadas* — the accommodation in historic buildings such as the 15th-century Convent of Loios in Evora — looks set to emulate the success of Spain's

paradors. The volume of traffic is low outside the cities, car hire is cheap, and the main danger is locals who treat the road network as an extension of the Formula One circuit at Estoril, near Lisbon.

With one million inhabitants and a convenient airport, Lisbon is one of Europe's most manageable capitals. It is also one of the most attractive, offering atmospheric dilapidation rather than brutish modernisation. Within minutes of landing, the airport bus routes between flamboyant buildings painted every shade of peeling pastel. Formal squares full of faintly pompous statues suffer the indignity of competing with the weekly wash hung to dry from wrought-iron balconies.

The novelist Henry Fielding called Lisbon "the nastiest city in the world". In the idyllic surroundings of the English cemetery where he is buried the outburst seems particularly cantankerous. The cemetery, one of the many backwaters and gardens that make this city such a delight to



The Belem Tower fortress beside the Tagus, from which Vasco da Gama is said to have sailed on his voyages of discovery

explore, is tended by an aged crone who will grant entry only to visitors who can convince her they are English. Elsewhere, faded *azulejos*, the patterned ceramic tiles that are Lisbon's hallmark, and

impressive dissident graffiti featuring flocks of obedient sheep — railing against bourgeois conformity, I suspect — have turned walls throughout the city into delightful, if incongruous, canvases.

Ancient yellow trams clatter down cobbled streets to the River Tagus. Close to it, at the Ribeira dawn market, the sounds are of old mincing machines shredding cabbages for *caldo verde*, the much-loved soup, and of flower arrangers stabbing carnation stems into blocks of oasis. Clubbers from dives in the Bairro Alto (upper town) district wash and brush-up here at the only bar serving hot chocolate at this time of the morning, while stallholders doze on their stools.

Amid the profusion of flowers, vegetables and fish are piles of dried discs of salted codfish or *bacalhau*, the national dish. "The Portuguese are proud of their sea-faring roots," said Carlos, our bus driver. "We have eaten *bacalhau* ever since the pioneer sailors ate it in the age of discovery." Which struck me as akin to the British creating a national cuisine around hardback and weevils.

For better ways of appreciating Portugal's maritime tradition, visitors head for the Lisbon suburb of Belem. Here,



not far from the fairy-tale fortress called Belem Tower, Vasco da Gama is said to have left for his travels. Here, too, is the monastery of Jeronimo, the crowning glory of the country's distinctive Manueline style. Inside, the walls are a riot of carved cables, swags of seaweed, anchors, shells and strange sea creatures.

In the evening, the place to go is the Bairro Alto, best reached by the Elevador da Gloria, a tram-cum-funicular that is an experience in itself. At the top the views of the city lights are impressive, and the splendid Port Wine Institute just happens to be directly opposite.

Here the country's entire range of ports — dry whites, medium tawnies, sweet young rubies — can be sampled from 50p a glass. This is an excellent way of steeling yourself for the

inevitable run-in with *bacalhau*.

Our party left Lisbon by the great suspension bridge across the Tagus, drove past the huge, Rio-like statue of Christ and headed southeast into the Alentejo, a vast plain with its own awesome character. Bare-trunked cork trees had been harvested of their bark. Piles of boulders punctuated the wheat fields like islands: on each one a single olive tree had sprouted.

We explored the region from our base at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, a cloistered monastery in which the monks' cells have been converted into charming rooms. In the town of Evora, farmers in hard-rimmed stonions and *pelicos*, the local furry-hide jackets, had gathered in the main square, the Praça do Giraldo, to do business.

Inside the Sao Francisco church I found the Chapel of Bones, a macabre vault neatly patterned with the mortal remains of some 5,000 monks. "We these bones await your bones," read the inscription. It was not welcoming, but it was yet more evidence that there is plenty of Portugal to discover beyond the fairways.

JEREMY SEAL

● The author was a guest of The Magic of Portugal.

Feast day in the forest

Golf is undoubtedly the main attraction of the Algarve — but there are so many other activities on offer that non-golfers certainly won't get bored.

The Quinta do Lago hotel is renowned for its three golf courses (Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos and San Lorenzo), as well as tennis, horse-riding, cycling, an excellent health club and bird-watching, while the neighbouring water sports centre provides scuba-diving, parasailing, water-skiing, jet-skiing and fishing.

The Ria Formosa National Park, adjoining the Quinta do Lago estate, is a prime site for birdwatchers, but the acres of barren land are possibly best left to the real aficionados. Nonetheless, the information centre at the park is well worth a visit, with its displays of local flora and fauna and an excellent aquarium.

The local fishing villages should be visited, with Olhao particularly worthy of a mention for its spotless fish market. Lunch around the coast is both cheap (less than £5) and good if you keep to the fish, particularly the sardines. If you want a real treat, one of the best places for lunch is Gígis.

A five-minute walk towards the sea, across a rocky bridge from the hotel, Gígis serves outstanding seafood. It is expensive for the region, but, with wine, the bill is unlikely to exceed £20 a head.

For those wishing to see more of the Portuguese cul-

ture, a small organised trip is strongly advised. Our party of six was guided by Milhous, whose representative, Nuno Valagão, was a revelation. Not only was he popular with the locals everywhere we visited, he led us to Estoril, where the town square was more Rio than Ria Formosa.

We had stumbled — thanks to Nuno — upon the annual "festival of the pines", which marks the start of summer. The Portuguese, friendly though they are, prefer to keep these occasions to themselves, and we were the only tourists there. When pressed, Nuno revealed that this celebration takes place on the first Sunday in May each year. We were there on a Tuesday, and it was only half-jokingly that Nuno said: "The day varies to keep the tourists away."

The procession was led by those on horseback, with the riders wearing traditional black suits with white shirts, while their charges had beautifully braided manes and tails tied with ribbons and flowers. Horse-drawn carriages and tractors followed, buried in flowers, leaving the town centre amid loud music and singing. The participants embarked on a 12-kilometre journey to the pine forest at Ludo for a day of feasting, before returning after nightfall to light a large bonfire in front of the church.

ROB WRIGHT

● The author was a guest of British Airways Holidays and Orient-Express Hotels.

FACT FILE

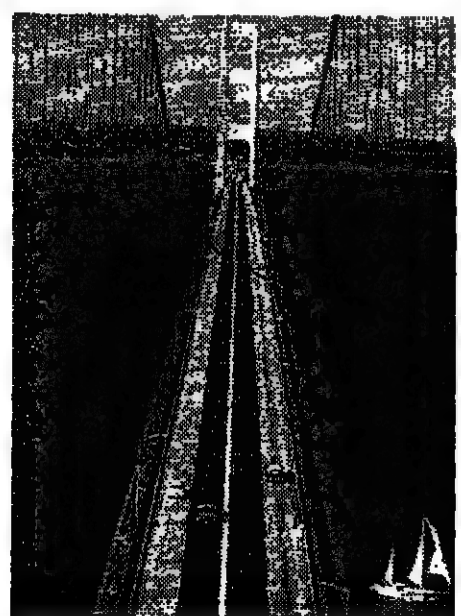
■ As part of the British Airways Holidays golf programme, three and seven-night special programmes are offered to the Hotel Quinta do Lago. Prices start from £639 for three nights and £898 for seven, and include return flights, B&B, a car and one round of golf (18 holes) per night's stay at the following courses: Quinta do Lago, Pinheiros Altos, Vila Sol or Vilamoura 1, 2, 3. Inquiries and reservations: 01293 723131.

■ The five-star Hotel Quinta do Lago is set on a pine-covered hill overlooking the sea. A footbridge leads to miles of beach, with the Ria Formosa bird sanctuary also close at hand. The hotel is only a short drive from the area's golf course, and the charming historic villages of Faro, Almansil and Olhao. Cost per person sharing a double room starts from £80. The hotel offers a series of four and seven-night golf instruction programmes for beginners through to advanced players. Inquiries and reservations through Orient-Express Hotels: 0181-568 8366.

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■ The Magic of Portugal (reservations 0181-741 1181, brochure 01233 21619) offers villa and hotel holidays, city breaks, stays in historic *pousadas* and self-drive holidays.

■ The author stayed in Lisbon at the Hotel Da Lapa, a five-star hotel built around an old palace in the city's diplomatic quarter. The Magic of Portugal offers a week's two-centre holiday, based on the hotels Da Lapa and Quinta do Lago in the Algarve, starting at £908 per person in July, including flights, transfers and four days' car hire. A week's holiday with three nights at a three-star hotel in Lisbon and four nights at the Hotel Convento de São Paulo, with flights and three days' car hire, starts at £539.

■ TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) flies three times daily to Lisbon from London Heathrow. For much of May, subject to

availability, midweek returns start at £97, rising to about £200 in June.

■ Lisbon's main sights are open every day except Monday. The Port Wine Institute is at Rua de Sao Pedro de Alcantara 45, and open daily 10am-10pm, except Sunday.

■ Recommended for memorable evening drinks is Pavilhao Chines Bar at Rue Dom Pedro V 89, Lisbon.

■ Portugal is generally warm from April to October, although the Alentejo, southeast of Lisbon, can become uncomfortably hot in July and August.

■ Guide books: *The Rough Guide*, £9.99. *Cadogan Guide*, £14.99.

■ For further travel information call The Portuguese Tourist Office in London on 0171-494 1441.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

TRAVEL

19

... the benefits of the Algarve out of season; plus taking the rough with the smooth greens at Estoril

A country all to ourselves

The car bounced along the rough road. There was no house in sight, no signpost, no one to ask the way. "I'm telling you, this is wrong," my wife said in a tone that left no doubt that I, who was navigating, had better get us out of this mess. The sun was hot. The road wound nowhere.

Who said the Algarve was horribly overdeveloped? Just when you needed directions from a friendly tourist office, or an old English pub, or a golf club crowded with Brits, all there was was a stony track. "Just keep going," I said. The gears crunched.

Then the road suddenly improved, joining a metalled one. We sped up and turned a corner. In front of us the sea sparkled and the sands of Praia da Amoreira, almost empty, stretched into the distance. A small restaurant, *Paraíso do Mar* (Sea Paradise), with white tables and sun umbrellas, had several tables free. I was saved.

The fried cuttlefish (1,000 escudos or £4.40), was superb; the prawns, grilled mackerel and sardines fresh and cheap; the wine only 600 escudos (£2.70). Under a powder-blue October sky with a temperature of about 80°F, and an afternoon stretching ahead, the cold, leaden weather back home seemed much more than a two-hour flight away.

Early autumn is a good time to visit the Algarve. For some decades this southern state of Portugal has cashed in on its guaranteed sun, good beaches and, now, excellent golfing facilities. During the summer months holidaymakers are packed in like sardines, but in October it is quieter and the weather is still reliable.

"The good thing about the Algarve," said a holiday rep in an unguarded moment — probably after one too many almond liqueurs — "is that there's nothing to see, so you can completely relax." This unflattering summary contains some truth. But there are delightful places if you look. One of them was our villa, not far from Carvoeiro, on the

FACT FILE

■ The author stayed at the five-star Quinta 'del Rey' villa near Carvoeiro. One week's self-catering costs from £340 per person based on six sharing in spring and autumn. Price includes flights (Garwick), maid or cleaning service and hire car with unlimited mileage. Additional weeks from £169 per person based on six sharing. Prices for four person. Reservations: Meon Villas (01730 230370).
■ Currency is escudos: 226 to the £.
■ Guidebook: *Get to Know the Algarve* by Len Port (VIP, £9.95).

(tiles) that are the most typical feature of Portugal, emblazoned on the front of several guidebooks. Charming antique ones are worth looking out for. In churches all over the Algarve, blue tiles cover the walls in exotic competition with brilliant gold carving.

The small church in Vila da Bispo, to the west, is one spectacular example, a riot of blue and gold with an elaborately painted ceiling and bright chandeliers. Even more gorgeous is the chapel of San Antonio in Lagos. Through a modest entrance you suddenly find yourself in a golden chamber that glows in the semi-darkness.

Lagos itself — with its leafy square, *Praca Gil Eanes*, and the bizarre statue of Dom Sebastian, the 16th-century king, as a child in a space-man's outfit — was the most appealing of the larger towns in the western Algarve. The regional museum there is recommended.

A week was not nearly enough to explore even the western half of the Algarve, let alone to confirm the promising reports of towns like Tavira in the east or the barely explored, wild north east. But the west coast repays a number of trips: the Cape of Saint Vincent, the most southwesterly point of Europe, and nearby Sagres evoke the early days of Portuguese exploration.

The former is where in the 14th century the body of St Vincent, a Spanish priest, was brought in a boat guarded, it is said, by ravens. It became a Christian shrine where for centuries passing boats dipped their sails. The ravens remain and a lighthouse guards the dramatic coastline. Sagres is where Henry the Navigator, an early Renaissance Man, founded his school of navigation.

Further up the Atlantic coast, south of Praia da Amoreira, we worked up an appetite walking for miles along the beautiful, deserted beach at Bordeira, the scent of pine and herbs mingling with the salt.

Really good food was not



Day on the tiles: azulejos are the most distinctive and ubiquitous feature of Portugal, used to decorate everything from walls to churches

FACT FILE

We were in typical southern Algarvian countryside — dry and scrubby, but with cork oak, almond, olive trees and cactus in abundance, and vines struggling through the red earth. At sunset the clunk of bells and distant bleating of sheep and goats drift through the quiet. One evening the children rode horses from the nearby riding school along sandy tracks around the neighbourhood. The red earth lends itself well to the plates, jars, jugs and cups that fill the local potteries. But it is the azulejos

easy to find. Piri-piri (chilli) chicken is worth trying, as are fried prawns with piri-piri and garlic. The best meal of the week was when we ventured east to Olhão. Opposite the large fish market, on Avenida 5 de Outubro, is *Restaurante Kinikas* where the *cataplana* (seafood stew with pork, a local speciality) was excellent.

The Algarve sometimes tantalises then disappoints the visitor. Beautifully fresh and well-cooked fish is insulted by having to share a plate with vegetables straight from a school canteen; or a lovely view along a bougainvillea-lined street to a church is obscured by a heap of old building materials.

But occasionally, unexpectedly, it all comes right. Such as drinking coffee under the plane trees in the pretty hill village of Alte, with the stream flowing by, the sun high, and the verses of the local poet painted on blue and white tile panels at neat intervals along the wall.

TIMOTHY RICE

■ The author was a guest of Meon Villas.

In AD 1147, Dom Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, conquered Lisbon with the help of English crusaders.

The English are now returning in expanding numbers but wielding six-irons instead of swords. The nearby Estoril coastline, a half-hour train ride from Lisbon, where the indigenous rich and famous prefer to holiday, is now cottoning on to the jargon of birdies and eagles.

It is cheap, too. Green fees range from £25 to £40 on the Algarve. Around Lisbon, they average £25 — and fairly far from not have to rise with the dawn or queue for eternity to secure a tee time.

Estoril Palace, an exclusive members club linked with the five-star Hotel Palacio, offers a taxing trail that mean-

Watch birdies on the coast

ders through eucalyptus and fragrant mimosa.

Crossing and recrossing the motorway, which bisects the par-69 splendour, can prove irksome and even traumatic, especially if players take the wrong path and inadvertently end up pulling bag and trolley along the hard shoulder.

The mix of links and woodland holes of Quinta da Marinha, bordering the Atlantic at Cascais, test the patience of a saint while the par-72 at Aroeira, across the Tagus suspension bridge on

the Costa Azul, cuts through dense pine and abundant flora. Many a professional was reduced to club-thumping frustration during the recent Portuguese Open held there.

Yet the *Penha Longa* estate at Linho, 33km from the capital, is the Lisbon jewel — a £100 million Japanese-backed "super resort" in the foothills of the Sintra mountains and former venue of the Portu-

guese Open. The 6,749-yard course, designed by the American Robert Trent Jones Jr in the grounds of a 14th-century monastery, is only four years old but already has a reputation as one of the most spectacular — and difficult — in Europe.

Its peaceful aura can be shattered by high-powered testing on the neighbouring Estoril grand prix circuit but usually remains quiet when *Penha Longa* stages its premier events. Formula One shows great respect for its sporting cousins.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

■ The author was a guest of Longshot Golf Holidays.

ESTORIL FACT FILE

■ Seven nights at Hotel Palacio, Estoril, inclusive of flight, car hire and weekday play on hotel course, costs from £459 per person per week. A golf "passport", for five courses in the area, costs £99. Trolley hire is £2 per day, buggy hire is between £15 and £20.
■ Return flights to Lisbon: British Airways (0345 222111) from £99, World Office TAP (Air Portugal, 0171-828 0262) from £97, Supersaver.
■ Reservations and inquiries: Longshot Golf Holidays, Meon House, College Street, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3JN (01730 268621).

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Africa: a one-day whitewater-rafting tour through the warm but drenching rapids of the Zambezi

When all's white with the world

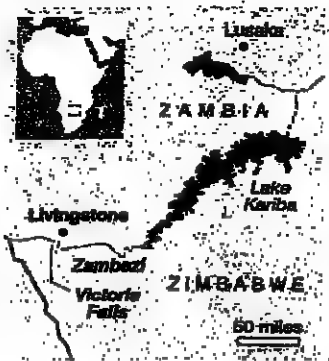
When I shout 'bail out' I don't mean bail out. I mean bail the water out before we hit the next set of rapids," said the instructor, about to steer five novice whitewater rafters down the first ten rapids below Victoria Falls on the River Zambezi. "This season I've flipped three times, and I expect it will happen again soon. Anyone of a nervous disposition should leave."

This announcement, coming as it did after we'd all paid (cash, no cheques) and signed a disclaimer for insurance purposes, was not reassuring. The company we were using, Sobek Expeditions based in California, specialises in whitewater rafting around the world, and is named after an Egyptian river-god who looks like a crocodile. John continued: "It's vital that you all do exactly what I say, when I say it. Otherwise the boat will go over. If I say 'highside right', you've got to throw all your weight onto the right tube before the wave flips us on our back. If anyone goes overboard we've got a rope, so throw it to them. And if you find yourself in the water, cross your arms across your chest and try to shoot the rapids feet first."

Presumably this was in the hope of getting away with a couple of broken legs rather than being brained on a boulder. Subdued, we set off down the river.

Downstream from the Victoria Falls the Zambezi runs through a narrow gorge with precipitous cliffs falling sheer into the water. We looked from the top and saw the left Avon inflatable and the anti-like figures of the porters. Then we started a slow descent.

Some of us clung nervously to the side and were put to shame by the retired couple from Belfast. "Why are you worrying about falling over just because you're near the edge?" asked the wife. "You don't just suddenly fall over for no reason in everyday life, do you?"



Not much reassured, we scrambled on down. The Victoria Falls never look small, even from above. From below they seem vast, and are deafening. But our attention was fixed on the rapids on the river. From a height these look like fast-flowing water; as one descends, it becomes clear that this is no mere river — it is a raging torrent. If a tree falls in it is thrown down the river and dashed into toothpicks on the first boulder.

But the descent had strengthened every resolve. Nothing could be worse than going back up. We climbed into a grey rubber dinghy, while John apologised that it was old, well patched and needed regular transfusions of air to keep afloat. His never boat had burst the previous day. Hoping that the same was not going to happen to this one, we pushed off into a calm patch of water, with John putting his weight into rowing powerfully across the stream.

All too soon we were caught in the current and sucked inexorably through the first rapid. The boat plunged into a vortex of crashing waves as we threw our weight against the tubes lifted by the spray which filled the boat. Like a filled paddling pool our boat lurched towards the sheer rock wall on the far side of the rapids, and rocked as the crew unanimously flinched from the black basalt. "Bail!"

This was just as well, because from there the rapids got bigger and better. The rubber dinghy was thrown around like a floating scrap through rapid after rapid, with frantic bailing on the flat pools between. During the rare periods of relaxation we were shown the eagles' nests, hippo dens and



The rapids below the Victoria Falls are strong enough to reduce a fallen tree to toothpicks

shouted the guide, and no one felt any desire to bail out.

Once the boat was clear of water, John decided we needed a crew drill. "Right side," he shouted, and we threw ourselves vigorously to the left. "Left side" — and we all went right. It took a little time for him to explain the difference between right and left, even to the English speakers. Then he started on the Japanese, explaining linguistic details such as "forwards" and "back".

Once we'd stopped, a new problem presented itself. Although the river treated our boats as it would a dried leaf on its surface, off the water the Avon inflatable, strengthened with a steel frame, was heavy, and manhandling it down over the broken rock banks of the gushing white waters was far from easy. The six of us dragged it on to a slab

of basalt, and struggled to lift it to shoulder height. Then we staggered along like some drunken 12-legged insect over broken rocks and sandy patches. Eventually we reached the steep drop of the main waterfall, and unceremoniously dumped the boat over the side to let the river bounce it flat.

Afterwards, it is hard to identify the best rapids. Was it four, the one that has overturned more rafts than any other since the sport was started on the Zambezi 15 years ago? Or seven, that left us gasping for lunch, after it spun us in a sickening series of whirlpools of standing waves stacked proud across the flow of water? But the numbers weren't important. Depending on the river levels, new rapids appear

to fill and threaten the raft, to be classified as three-and-a-half, seven-and-three-quarters and so on. Whichever was worst — or best — everyone was entranced and determined to repeat the experience. There is no reason to stick to a one-day ride down the Zambezi. Seven days of rapids stretch down from Victoria Falls towards Kariba, and companies in bordering Zambia and Zimbabwe run tours for individuals and groups.

Whitewater rafting was started by the holiday operator Sobek, which prospected the river by air before trying it out in practice, and is currently based in Livingstone on the Zambian side of the Falls. Since then, other operators have launched themselves into the lucrative rafting trade on the Zimbabwe side, starting further downstream.

WHITEWATER RAFTING FACT FILE

■ Whitewater rafting below Victoria Falls is seasonal because the water level changes. It is highest between August and December. Day tours can be arranged at Harare with Frontiers Adventures (00 263 4 732 911; fax 00 263 4 732 948) for \$85 (about £57), or with Shearwater (00 263 4 757 831; fax 00 263 4 757 836) for \$95 (about £64). Both companies also offer tours of up to five days. For Sobek in Zambia call 00 2 603 321 423; its parent company, Mountain Travel Sobek of California (00 1 800 227 2384) has nine-day expeditions for \$1,750 (about £1,175).

■ From the UK, Somak Holidays (0181-423 3000) can arrange whitewater rafting on the Zambezi in conjunction with some of its African tours. Whitewater rafting is also included in the Exodus 17-day Nepal Discoverer, 15-day Nepal Explorer and 15-day Inca Trail holidays. It is also an optional extra at Victoria Falls in the five-week Southern Africa Overland Expedition. Reservations, 0181-675 5550.

■ Various airlines fly to Zimbabwe. The author flew from London to Harare with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (0181-750 9000) via Schiphol. Return flights from £751.

■ Yellow fever and cholera inoculation certificates are required if entering from

infected areas. Consult your GP before travelling. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for the Zambezi valley.

■ For stays of less than six months British passport holders do not need a visa for Zimbabwe.

■ Worldwide, whitewater rafting has become one of the fastest growing sports.

Other places include Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand. Queenstown is a good place to arrange day-trips or longer safaris. In Cairns, Queensland,

Australia you can go rafting for a day or let a helicopter drop you off for a longer ride, with several nights under canvas.

Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) offers a day's river rafting, through World Heritage rainforest, for £63 per person, departing daily from Cairns. Travelmood (0171-258 0280) offers a day tour for £59. Five and 11-day tours are also available.

■ The Australian Tourist Commission provides a factsheet and a faxback service. Using a fax machine, dial 0891-404 404 and key in the pin number 307.

■ If there is enough rain, whitewater rafting is also available in Wales between mid-October and March at £30 per person per day. Contact Activity Wales (01437 766 888).

Purists may detect a certain hype factor in the introductory safety chat, and resent an early rendezvous immediately followed by a leisurely registration procedure. There are other time-killing techniques to stretch out ten rapids to fill a day tour. There was a time when the one-day tour took in the first 20 — an easy target.

Despite the padding, rafting the Zambezi is an unforgettable experience. Unlike the wilder waters of Canada and Chile, the Zambezi is warm, and so getting drenched is part of the fun. Although California can offer warm water, there is less of it and so the experience is less exuberant. As an introduction to this demanding and exciting sport the Zambezi is unequalled.

JACK BARKER

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The Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, can be tough at times because of the trail conditions and the altitude, up to 4,000m, but that is part of the enjoyment.

The trail, now painstakingly restored, lasts for four days and because the area is so remote there is no alternative but to camp for three days in the mountains.

Trekkers are accompanied by a guide, porters, cook and helpers and the two-person tents are put up and dismantled by them, so it is camping in style.

While the trek is high in places and by no means a beginner's stroll, it is quite short and within the capacity of anyone who is fit and used to walking.

You return to Cuzco on the equally breathtaking train ride along the Urubamba river, whose rapids provide



On the trail of the lost city of the Incas

you with a day's adrenalin-rich excitement as you whitewater raft along the Sacred Valley.

DEPARTURES: May 14, June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16, Aug 6 and 20, Sept 3, Oct 15 and 29. Ask for dossier TPT.

PRICE: £1,350-£1,395 plus £52 insurance. A further classic walk on top of the world is the Mont Blanc Trek, one of the finest walks in Europe.

The circuit is a series of paths linking the seven valleys that surround the highest mountain in western Europe. Your route will take you across three borders from France into Switzerland, then into Italy and back to France. For much of its length it lies on high paths with magnificent views into the valley, sometimes

crossing huge glaciers, often meandering through alpine meadows and picture-book villages.

It is a grade B trek with 10 days of the 15-day trip spent walking at a maximum altitude of 2,500m. You fly from London to Geneva and then drive to Chamonia. Accommodation is camping in good campsites and occasionally in the wild.

This holiday is always popular so you will need to book quickly. DEPARTURES: June 24, July 8 and 22, Aug 12 and 26, Sept 9. PRICE: £580-£595, plus meals package £115 and insurance £22. Ask for dossier TWB.

For the seriously adventurous, there is a spectacular top-of-the-world walk to the base camp of K2, the world's second highest peak and one of the most daring to climb. A classic among trekking routes, it is exceptionally wild and remote. The holiday lasts for 23 days with 14 days trekking to a maximum altitude of 4,724m. Six nights are spent in hotels and 15 camping. DEPARTURE: June 26, July 27, Aug 17. PRICE: £1,950, plus £58 insurance. Ask for dossier THC.

*Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physically capable of from: Exodus Travels, 9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT.

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The Times/Exodus Adventure Holidays Prize Draw, 16 Whitefriars St, London, EC3R 2NG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 15, 1996.



Trekking on top of the world on the Mont Blanc trail is a grade B walk which most reasonably fit people can enjoy

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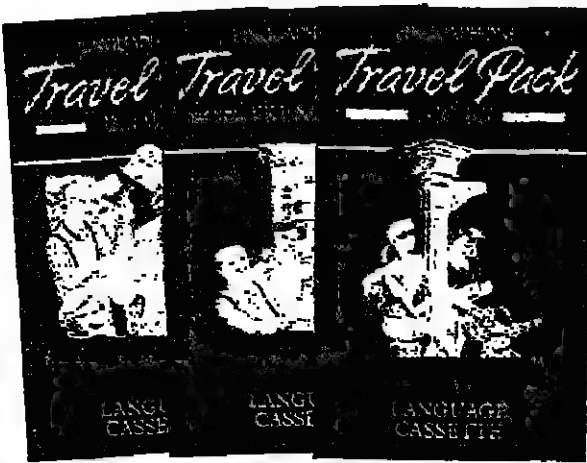
giving you a possible saving on your holiday of £250.

You can claim £75 off the cost of any Exodus holiday with your Times vouchers. Vouchers worth £150 can be used for holidays of 15 days or more and vouchers of £250 on holidays over 22 days, booked before Dec 31, 1996. Full terms and conditions were published in last Monday's paper.

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TRAVEL

21

Weekend breaks in Britain: Cardiff enjoys a renaissance; plus the chocolate and castles of the North

Fruits of Victorian dreams

If a scholarly aristocrat and an eccentric architect were to hatch a scheme to create Cardiff Castle today, they would undoubtedly be refused planning permission for their grandiose project.

We are fortunate then that such a well-matched pair did come together before the days of planning inquiries and bureaucratic busybodies. The aristocratic patron was the third Marquess of Bute and his collaborator was the brilliant architect, William Burgess. Their joint dream in 1865 was to transform Cardiff's centuries-old castle into a medieval marvel.

Bute's father had virtually created modern Cardiff by establishing its dockland, and the young heir to the family fortune was willing to put his money where Burgess's muse was. What he bequeathed to succeeding generations might be described as a cross between Disneyland and the Alhambra.

From the bustling city streets, the castle, with its neatly crenelated walls and symmetrical arrow slits, looks like a child's model fort. It stands on the 2,000-year-old site of Roman and Norman fortifications, but its present inspiration comes from the Middle Ages.

Inside the restored quarters, no surface remains unadorned. No wall lacks its mural and no ceiling is left unglazed. Even the nursery has a frieze depicting characters from the *Arabian Nights*, Hans Andersen and the brothers Grimm.

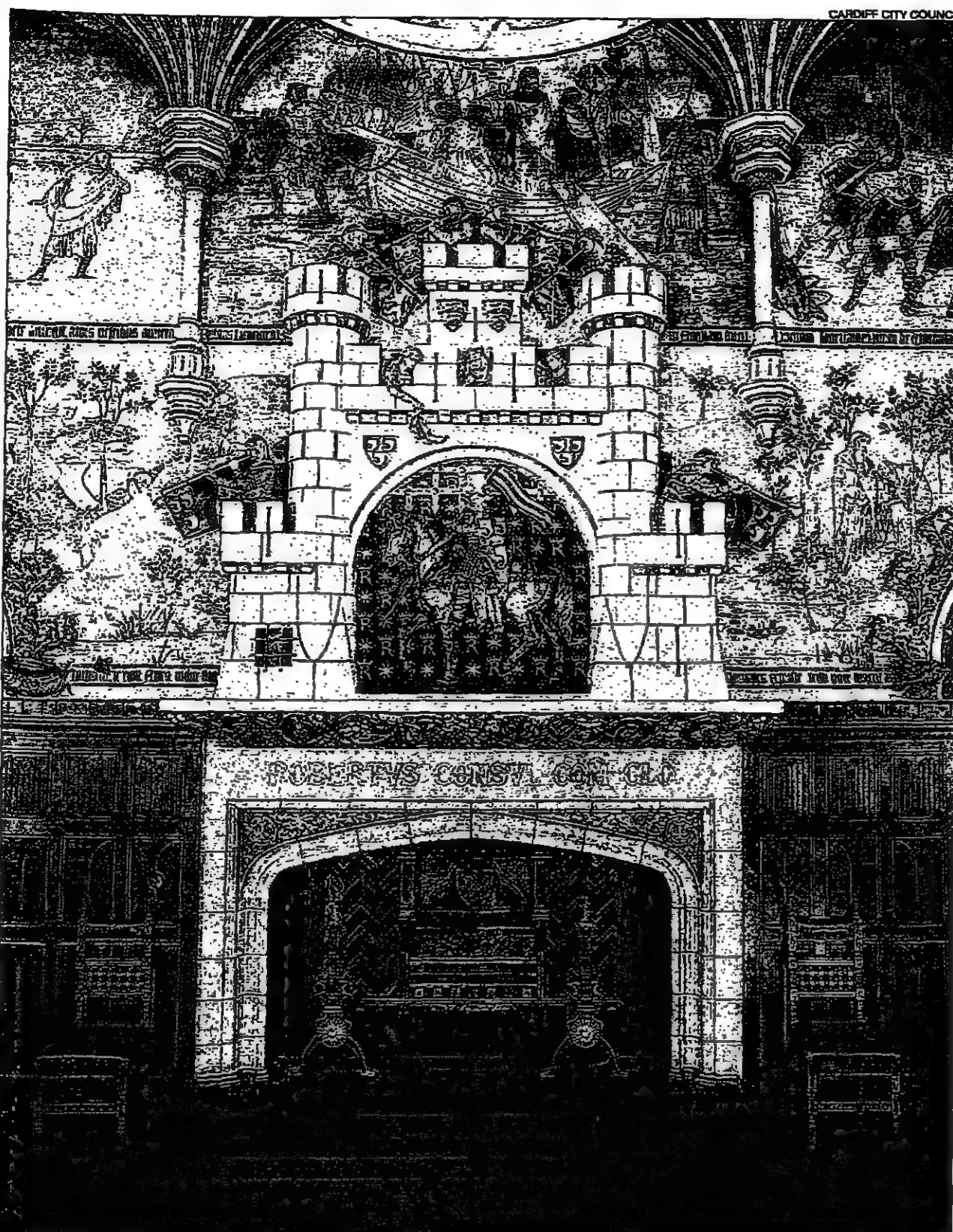
Like the castle, Cardiff itself comes as a pleasing surprise to the unsuspecting visitor. Considering the industrial heritage of surrounding valleys, it is remarkable that not a colliery winding gear or steelworks chimney interrupts the skyline.

Today's city remains a testament to Victorian enterprise. In 1800 the population of this sleepy market town was 1,800. By 1850 it had reached 30,000; today it is nearing 300,000. The motivators of this population boom were iron and coal.

A canal linking the iron foundries of Merthyr to Cardiff was opened in 1794 and a railway followed 50 years later. By 1913 Cardiff was the world's biggest coal port. Yet it has always been possible to stand in the centre of the city, oblivious to the existence of docklands only a mile away. The London-Fishguard railway line traditionally served as a physical and social barrier between the bourgeoisie and Butetown. It was a border which the majority of citizens rarely, if ever, crossed.

Uniting the two halves of the divided city is a prime aim of the £2.4 billion Cardiff Bay project, which involves the building of a barrage and the creation of an attractive waterfront. The scheme is going ahead in the face of objections by ecologists who point out that the existing mudflats provide winter wading grounds for numerous wading birds.

Despite the recent setback when the opera house project failed to attract Millennium



Inside Cardiff Castle no surface remains unadorned, even down to the chimney piece in the banquet hall

money, visitors are already tentatively sampling its seaside delights.

Newcomers such as Techniquest, an educational science centre, and Harry Ramsden's fish restaurant have prudently adapted Victorian constructions. Techniquest is an exciting place for children and adults, packed with hands-on exhibits.

In Cathays Park, Cardiff can boast the finest civic centre in Britain. Begun at the turn of the century, it remains a testimony to Victorian civic pride. Here, on 60 acres of land bought from the third Marquess, is housed an idiosyncratic confection of buildings, including city and county halls, law courts, museum and university. Portland stone facings and a neo-classical approach ensure unity.

Another Victorian legacy is the city's network of arcades. These glass-vaulted treasure caves are the forerunners of

modern shopping precincts. Some, like Castle Arcade, run to three storeys and have walkways linked by bridges.

In Butetown the formidable Coal Exchange building is said to have been the scene of the world's first million-pound deal. It was later destined to be the site of a Welsh parliament until most of the population said: "Thank you, but no thank you." Ebenezer Chapel, which dates from the middle of the last century, was built from stones brought back as ballast in ships returning from every corner of the world.

Though still a cosmopolitan capital, Cardiff is arguably more Welsh today than at any time in living memory. A middle-class revival of interest in the language is fuelled by patriotism and opportunism.

A bonus on a recent visit to hear Bryn Terfel, the world-famous baritone, sing at St David's Hall was to return to the Park Hotel after midnight

to find an impromptu *cymanfa ganu* (singing festival) at full throttle in the lounge bar. The choristers, complete with conductor and pianist, turned out to be members of the self-styled Terfelid — a band of largely middle-aged fans who travel the world to support their local hero.

ALAN ROAD

● The author was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (01222 499909).

● Where to stay: Marriot Hotel, Mill Lane (01222 399944). B&B: 164 single, £28 double; Town House (01222 233999), £30.50 single, £49.50 double.

● Where to eat: Quayles, 6-8 Romilly Crescent (01222 342844); Harry Ramsden's, Stuart Street (01222 463334).

● Attractions: Cardiff Castle, Castle Street (01222 322683); Techniquest, Stuart Street (01222 475475); National Museum and Gallery, Cathays Park (01222 379751).

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 25

DRENGAGE

(b) An ancient form of torture, compounded with hunting services. Such service existed on the manors of the Bishop of Durham before the Conquest. The word is from the Danish *dreng* a boy or servant.

"Thus there are persons holding in drengage, who have had to feed a horse and a dog and to go in the great hunt (magna caesa) with two harriers and 15 corders."

KNURR AND SPELL

(a) An old English game resembling trap ball and played with a knurr or wooden ball which is released from a little brass cup at the end of a tongue of steel called a spell or spill. After the spell has touched the spring the ball flies into the air and is struck with the bat.

PYLADES

(c) Pylades was the friend of Orestes in Homeric legend. Their names have become proverbial for friendship, like Damon and Pythias, and David and Jonathan.

Orestes was the son, and Pylades the nephew, of Agamemnon. After Agamemnon was chopped in his bath, Orestes was exiled to Pylades' father (Strophilius), and the two became fast friends. Pylades assisted Orestes in obtaining vengeance on Aegisthus and Clytemnestra, and afterwards married Electra, his chum's sister.

BAKHA

(c) The sacred bull of Hermopolis in Egypt, an incarnation of Menthu, a personification of the heat of the sun. The versatile bull changed colour every hour of the day.

Sweet delights of a Yorkshire tour

Fortunately the ninth Viscount Fairfax of Emley was 150 years dead by the time his bedchamber in York was converted into a public lavatory and his drawing room and salon into a dance hall.

But, in other ways, he would be happier now. The York Civic Trust bought 18th-century Fairfax House from the city council in 1982. For more than two years the architect Francis Johnson restored the building to its former splendour.

If you visit Fairfax House these days you're meant to feel that His Lordship is still around. The fact that he doesn't materialise turns out to be no great disappointment. The wonderful collection of Georgian furniture and clocks, the beautifully ornate ceilings, ironwork on the great staircase and carved woodwork around the doors are engrossing.

Fairfax House, built by the Viscount in 1762 for his unmarried daughter Anne, was the Sunday attraction of a Heritage Weekend in Yorkshire, one of a number of such breaks offered throughout the country by Hilton National Hotels and Past Times. Ours, Northern Delights, meant two nights at the Hilton National Leeds Garforth and visits to Harrogate, Ripley Castle and Fairfax House.

Friday night, though, was chocolate night, with a talk from Chantal Coady, a founder in 1991 of the 5,000-member Chocolate Society. This body dedicates itself to increasing awareness of fine-quality chocolate. The talk and subsequent tasting, I suspect, was the main attraction for many of the 16 weekend breakers. The French Valrhona chocolate was handed around in small packets. "Treat it like a fine wine," urged Ms Coady. It was heaven.

Unfortunately Harrogate the next day didn't leave such a good taste, thanks to the sulphur water I tried, reputedly the strongest in Europe. This, along with other medicinal waters, brought countless people to this spa town from the 18th century to the early

part of the 20th. In 1912 there were 87 springs.

Our destination was the 1842 Royal Pump Room. In the old days people would visit either for a drink — in 1926 the place served 1,500 glasses of the water in one morning — or for a bath treatment for rheumatism, gout, digestive ailments or skin diseases. The water is drawn from the well inside the building, but there's a tap outside if you can't wait until opening time.

However, for a proper drink, give me Betty's Café Tearooms any day, where the lump sugar is the golden colour of Cotswold stone — although you can expect to pay £7 to £10 for two coffees and two cakes.

The business was established in 1919 by Frederick Belmont, a young Swiss confectioner, and is famed in these parts. Betty's is in York, Northallerton and Ilkley too. As for Betty, the secret of her identity died with Mr Belmont in 1952.

On the way to Ripley Castle, our coach driver, pointed out sights of interest: St Peter's School in York where they don't celebrate Guy Fawkes night because the Guy in question went to school there; a viaduct built over the River Wharfe at Tadcaster for a railway line that never came; and an effluent treatment plant in the same town which serves three breweries.

Saturday lunch was at Cromwell's in Ripley. The restaurant is owned by Ripley Castle and the Ingilby family, resident on the site for 650 years. There's a fine plaster ceiling in the oak-panelled tower room put up in 1603 to commemorate the stay of James VI of Scotland on his way south to become James I of England. In the knight's chamber there is a "wagon roof", so called because the wooden structure resembles a horse-drawn wagon.

One of the highlights of this weekend was the private guided tours. At Ripley Castle we were put in the hands of Fran Floukes-Jones, whose animated and humorous walkabout was a delight.

You can get married here, too. The castle has a licence from Harrogate Borough Council to hold civil weddings, an irony that would not be lost on Sir William Ingilby (1620-82), who was so unattractive he had to commission someone to find him a wife.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● The author was a guest of Hilton National. For a brochure contact: Special Events, Hilton National, Millbuck House, Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1DN (01923 346464). This features 10 packages, including Conflicts of the English Civil War (May 3-Jun 2), Josiah Wedgwood (July 19-21), and William Morris (1834-96) (June 26-30, Aug 2-4). Prices from £147 per person.



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For centuries, Tibet has lured Buddhist pilgrims and foreigners alike despite its geographical isolation and unmapped lands. Our access by air from Kathmandu will be quick and comfortable. Yet immediately upon arrival in the heart of Tibet at Lhasa we will have stepped back in time to a land that until recently had seen little change.

Similarly Bhutan, 'The Land of the Dragon' is hesitantly opening its doors and allowing a strictly limited number of travellers across its borders. Today's visitor is shown a fascinating society which is

unouched by the modern world. Isolated, like Tibet, by its towering peaks of the Himalayas, its culture and traditions have remained constant for hundreds of years. And in Kathmandu, old and new rest side by side, the array of Hindu pagodas and Buddhist Chaitays a sculptors dream.

It will be an outstanding journey of appreciation of these mountain peoples, their art and the stunning scenery they inhabit. A monumental trip undertaken with a degree of comfort, although some accommodation whilst charming, will be of a simple style.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick)-Kathmandu

DAY 2 Kathmandu: Arrive mid-afternoon and stay 3 nights.

DAY 3 Kathmandu: Visit the richly carved Pashu Temples of Durbar Square, the museum with its superb 12th-14th century Nepalese bronzes and the Monastery of the Living Goddess. Also visit the great Buddhist stupa of Swayambhunath.

DAY 4 Kathmandu: Drive to Patan and see Durbar Square and the Palace Complex. In the afternoon visit the great Temple of Pashupatinath, the holiest of Nepal's shrines.

DAY 5 Kathmandu-Pero: Fly to Pero and stay overnight. On a clear day the flight affords breathtaking views of the great Himalayan peaks.

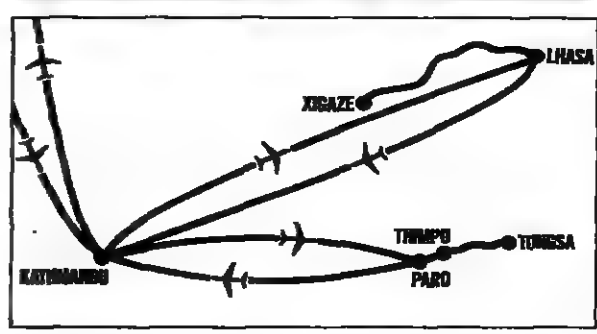
DAY 6 Thimphu: Drive to Bhutan's capital since 1955. Here in the broad fertile valley of the Wang Chu River, visit the National Library which houses a splendid collection of ancient manuscripts and the traditional Medicine Institute, where centuries old healing arts are still practised. Times permitting visit the Handicrafts Emporium or witness a mask and folk dance performance by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts.

DAY 7 Thimphu: Visit the Tashicho Dzong, Bhutan's administrative and religious centre on the banks of the river and the historic Shimbhu Dzong which houses the Rigpa School for Monastic Studies.

DAY 8 Yungas: Drive through the thickly forested mountain roads to Yungas to see the impressive Yungas Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. Stay overnight.

DAY 9 Thimphu: Return to Thimphu at a leisurely pace, driving through magical countryside. Stay overnight.

DAY 10 & 11 Pero: A short drive takes us to Pero to attend various festival celebrations and visit the Rimpang (Pano) Zone, a treasure house of art and writings. There are splendid views of the whole valley. Permission will also be sought to



visit the Tashicho Monastery known as 'Tigers Nest' precariously situated on the edge of a sheer cliff.

DAY 12 Pero-Kathmandu: Fly to Kathmandu. Stay 2 nights.

DAY 13 Kathmandu: Drive to Shwagpon and see the Golden Gate, the five-domed Nyatapole Temple and the Palace of Fifty Five Windows.

DAY 14 Kathmandu-Lhasa: Fly to Lhasa and stay 3 nights.

DAY 15 & 16 Lhasa: Visits will be made to the Great Potala Palace, founded in the 7th century and added to and restored through the ages. See the decorated halls with their fine wall paintings, the magnificent funerary pagodas, ritual vessels and porcelain. Also see the 7th century Jo Khang Monastery, an important Paganage Centre and the Summer Palace.

DAY 17 Lhasa: Drive across the vast Yangbain Plateau and cross

the Brahmaputra River to Xigaze. Stay 2 nights.

DAY 18 Xigaze: Visit the Tashikpo Monastery, one of the six great centres of Lamaism. See the Panchen Lama's throne in the Great Hall, the 15th century wall paintings and some fine statues. Later see the market and the Shaly Monastery founded in 1040.

DAY 19 Lhasa: Drive back to Lhasa for a 2 night stay.

DAY 20 Lhasa: A leisurely day visiting a market and the Drepung, Niside Monastery built in the early 1400's, once the largest and richest monastery in the world.

DAY 21 Lhasa-Kathmandu: Fly to Kathmandu. Stay overnight.

DAY 22 Kathmandu-London (Gatwick): Day flight arriving in the early evening.

1997/1998 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON IN TWIN BEDDED ROOM

23 March 1997	£4695
22 March 1998	£5070
Single room supplement	£590

Prices subject to exchange.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, accommodation in first class hotels, Kathmandu and Lhasa and best available elsewhere, all meals except breakfast only in Kathmandu, all excursions, local guides, entrance fees and donations, UK departure tax, Guest Lecturer, Tour Manager.

Not included: Travel Insurance, visas, airport taxes, gratuities.

Note: This itinerary includes some high altitude visits. Anyone concerned about this should consult their GP.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 20 1996

TRAVEL

23

France: the ferries are gearing up for Round 2 of the fight against the Channel

Who'll rule Channel waves?

The theory was that the Channel Tunnel would swamp ferry competition when it started its car-carrying Le Shuttle service 16 months ago. The four rivals — P&O European Ferries, Stena, Sally Ferries and Hoverspeed — would be reduced to a handful of crossings to cater for tunnel-phobia victims and die-hard traditionalists.

In fact, a price war broke out among the ferry companies. Some return fares for a car and passengers fell by two-thirds to under £100. The average fare dropped by 20 per cent.

This year a fifth competitor has joined the fray. Sea France was conceived after a split with Stena, partners for 30 years, but unable to agree plans in the post-tunnel market. Rather than bow out of a crowded market, each has increased capacity and become rivals at Dover.

So much for the theory. This summer there will be 81 sailings a day from Dover (compared with 66 last year) — with 40 more departures by Le Shuttle at Folkestone and 18 with Sally from Ramsgate.

On average, there will be one departure every ten minutes 24 hours a day as the six rivals, together with Brittany Ferries in the west, fight for a share of the 27 million passengers.

Sea France, which has spent £5 million renovating three ships, expects to lose money this year. But it has set itself an ambitious target of 2.7 million passengers by 1997 and is lauding its French ownership to distinguish itself from the pack.

An on-board bakery produces 1,200 baguettes, croissants and pain-au-chocolat daily. A consultant French chef will help produce different dishes: present offerings include confit de canard and lamb kebabs, alongside traditional British fare.

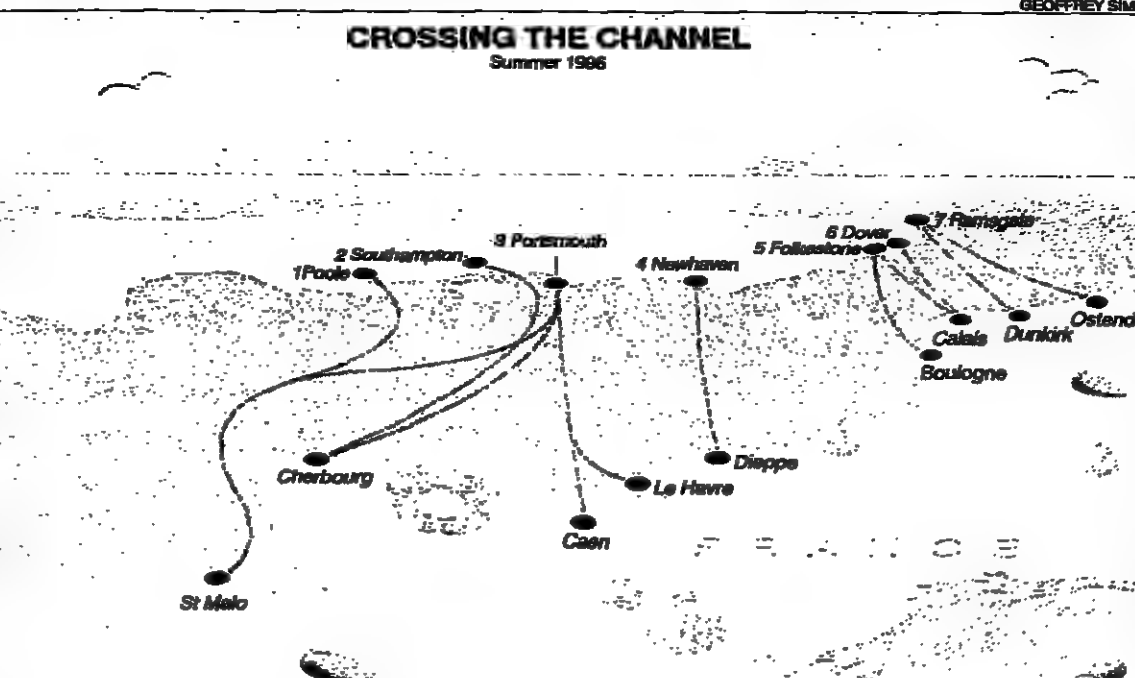
"We want to get away from the burger mentality that has dominated the Channel," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director. "If we had been just another ferry company we wouldn't last six months."

It is a moot point whether the British, who account for 70 per cent of the cross-Channel market, will consider cuisine when choosing between one steel hull and another.

Other initiatives include Hoverspeed offering free newspapers and a windscreens wash this summer, Stena introducing a fast ferry at Dover and Sally planning one from Ramsgate.

But fares and terminal and on-board shopping are more motivating factors, along with ferry crossing

1 POOLE			
To Cherbourg: Trunkline/Brittany Ferries	4hr 15min		
To St Malo: Brittany Ferries	8hr		
2 SOUTHAMPTON			
To Cherbourg: Stena	5hr		
3 PORTSMOUTH			
To Caen: Brittany Ferries	5hr 45min		
To Cherbourg: P&O	4hr 45min		
To Le Havre: P&O	5hr 45min		
To St Malo: Brittany Ferries	8hr		
4 NEWHAVEN			
To Dieppe: Stena	4hr		
To Caen: Sea Lynx	2hr		
5 FOLKESTONE			
To Calais: Le Shuttle	55min		
To Calais: Hoverspeed	55min		
6 DOVER			
To Calais: Hoverspeed	35min		
To Calais: P&O European Ferries	1hr 15min		
To Stena	1hr 30min		
To Sea Lynx	1hr 30min		
7 RAMSGATE			
To Ostend: Ship	4hr		
Ostend Line	1hr 35min		
To Dunkirk: Sally Ferries	2hr 30min		



times and driving distance to the final destination.

Dover and Folkestone take 80 per cent of all cross-Channel business, and the effect of a price and duty-free war in 1995 attracted large numbers to forsake more convenient crossings and drive to Kent.

Brittany Ferries, operating from ports in Hampshire, Dorset and Devon, was worst hit, losing £10 million. It has hit back in 1996, matching prices to Cherbourg and Caen with those from Dover.

P&O copied the tactic on routes from Portsmouth to Le Havre and Cherbourg. The exercise has had a marked effect, making peak prices cheaper — but hugely inflating others

outside school holidays. Families travelling to Normandy and Brittany on Saturday afternoons during the school holidays make the biggest savings, with prices falling from £39 last year to £25.

Worst off are couples taking morning or overnight departures in the summer outside the six-week school break, with fares rising by as much as 50 per cent. The fare on Brittany Ferries from Poole to Cherbourg in June rises from £172 to £257 for a couple and a car.

Another effect of the tunnel is bound to have more consequences for ferries: over-capacity. This clearly cannot continue and there is unlikely to be the same choice in 1997.

While the number of people crossing the Channel grew by 7 per cent last year, only two ferry companies made a profit. And the problems are growing.

The trend towards fast ferries demands more investment, and conventional ferries will have to be adapted to meet new safety requirements. The day-trip business, handy for filling empty ships in winter, was down 30 per cent this year. French companies are suffering the same fall in summer holiday bookings, mainly because of the strength of the franc.

With duty-free shopping due to be scrapped in 1999 the ferries face a further loss of income. P&O, which saw profits tumble by a quarter last

year, gets 35 per cent of its revenue from duty-free. In the meantime, it is losing duty-free business to Le Shuttle, which has cut 66 per cent off high-street prices, extended its shopping areas at Folkestone and Calais, and is now selling £500,000 worth of goods each week.

Is the answer another price war? Don't be surprised if it is. While P&O is holding its nerve, the other main players, Stena and Le Shuttle, are taking pot shots in a skirmish that could precede renewed battle.

Le Shuttle has extended its advance booking period to the end of April, knocking 20 per cent off summer prices. Stena, meanwhile, has cut prices by up to 40 per cent for travel this month.

The ferries are banking on long-term growth in the market and a levelling off of demand for Le Shuttle to cement their future.

P&O and Stena can also be expected to renew talks on co-operation, given government clearance. But there is more to come in the short term.

It was Brittany Ferries that cracked first last spring, reducing prices on all summer crossings to £100 and forcing rivals to follow. The same may be expected this year.

STEVE KEENAN

Rural walks around Slovenija

TRAVEL TIPS

SLOVENIAN FARMHOUSES

FARMHOUSES in the wine-growing regions of Stajerska in the newly independent republic of Slovenia, well located for walking and climbing, can be rented from specialist company Slovenija Pursuits (01763 852646).

A week's stay costs between £325 and £333 including flights and B&B.

CULTURAL KRAKOW

KRAKOW looks like joining Prague and Budapest as a top-selling Central European city destination. It was, until the 16th century, the Polish capital, and its medieval, baroque and Renaissance treasures, unlike those of Warsaw, are largely untouched.

City specialists Cresta (0161-927 7000) offers two nights there for £26. B&B; a two-centre break combining Krakow with Warsaw with two nights in each city, and a two-

DISCOUNT PEKING

FROM June 2 to July 18, Air China offers £90 non-stop return flights between Heathrow and Peking, with discounts on regional connecting flights from Leeds, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in China to Xian and Shanghai. Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711).

FRANC CHALLENGE

THE Louvre now opens free on the first Sunday of each month: the normal Sunday rate is Fr26; weekdays Fr45; after 3pm Fr26.

Also for visitors, a free map from the French Tourist Office in London (0891 244 123 — 49p per minute between 8am and 6pm, 39p after 6pm) shows off-motorway petrol stations within a mile or so of exits, where fill-ups can be £3 cheaper than motorway petrol stations.

POSH PADIS

MANY villas in the Caribbean work out costing less than those in St Tropez, even allowing for the air fares, claims Caribbean Chapters (0171-722 0722), whose new programme of 140 elegant properties includes some with staff, floodlit tennis courts, billiard rooms and even air-conditioned racquet-ball courts.

The four-bedroom Baie Rouge in St Martin costs £3,960 per week for eight holidaymakers in the summer; £6,480 in winter.

EGYPT WARNING

TOURISTS heading for Egypt are being told that they have fears following Thursday's gun attack in Cairo which left 18 Greek holidaymakers dead. Thomson is offering full refunds for clients booked to travel in the next fortnight who decide to cancel. Abercrombie & Kent is offering to make alternative holiday plans for any clients reluctant to visit Egypt. The Foreign Office is revising its advice but will stop short of warning off British tourists altogether.

JILL CRAWSHAW

The Russians' long love affair with Paris is highlighted by a prize-winning book, an exhibition and a church

Emigré basks in literary sun

AS LEAVES and lemon sorbets reappear in the Jardin de Luxembourg, a Parisian's thoughts turn to literature — more specifically, Russian literature. The book to be seen reading on spring afternoons in the park is Andrei Makine's *Le Testament Français*.

The author and his best-selling book are equally curious. During the past winter of

been trying to win French citizenship for years.

The novel, soon to be published by Scribner in Britain as *The French Testament*, is the story of a Russian boy who has fantastic daydreams of the

France he has never seen but has heard about from his French grandmother, now trapped forever in the greyness of Russia.

Aside from his lyrical writing, Makine conforms to the French ideal of a starving artist. He refuses to move from his sparse garret in Montmartre and, at 38, dresses like a student in scuffed corduroy jackets and glasses.

Of course, Makine is merely Russia's latest export to France in a long line. "For Russians, Paris is the cultural centre of the world," he says.

Turgenev came to Paris and swelled around with Dumas, Zola and Flaubert, and Tol-

stoy and Dostoevsky were regular visitors.

Such cultural and social exchanges are celebrated in a Franco-Russian exhibition, which opened this month at the Musée Carnavalet in the Marais.

The exhibition covers only the 19th century but the material is vast, from paint-

ings to diaries, clothes and "Imperial" soap. There is a photograph of Tsar Nicholas coming out of the Louvre, and drawings of the prototype for the roller coaster, les montagnes Russes, which were all the rage in the city's pleasure gardens.

As Victor de Balabine, a Russian diplomat, notes in his Paris diary in the 1840s: "We are quite fashionable here, and the Russians today, the French say, are the English of 1830."

There were so many Russians in Paris by 1861 that they built their own cathedral-church, St Alexandre Nevsky. Its five golden Byzantine

domes are worth a visit, and the splendid A La Ville de Petrograd food shop is next door to the church, offering caviar, borscht and blinis.

KATE MUIR

● "Les Russes à Paris au XIXe Siècle" is at the Musée Carnavalet, 23 Rue de Sévigné, 3rd arrondissement, until June 30.

● Church St Alexandre Nevsky, 12 Rue Daru, 8th, A La Ville de Petrograd.

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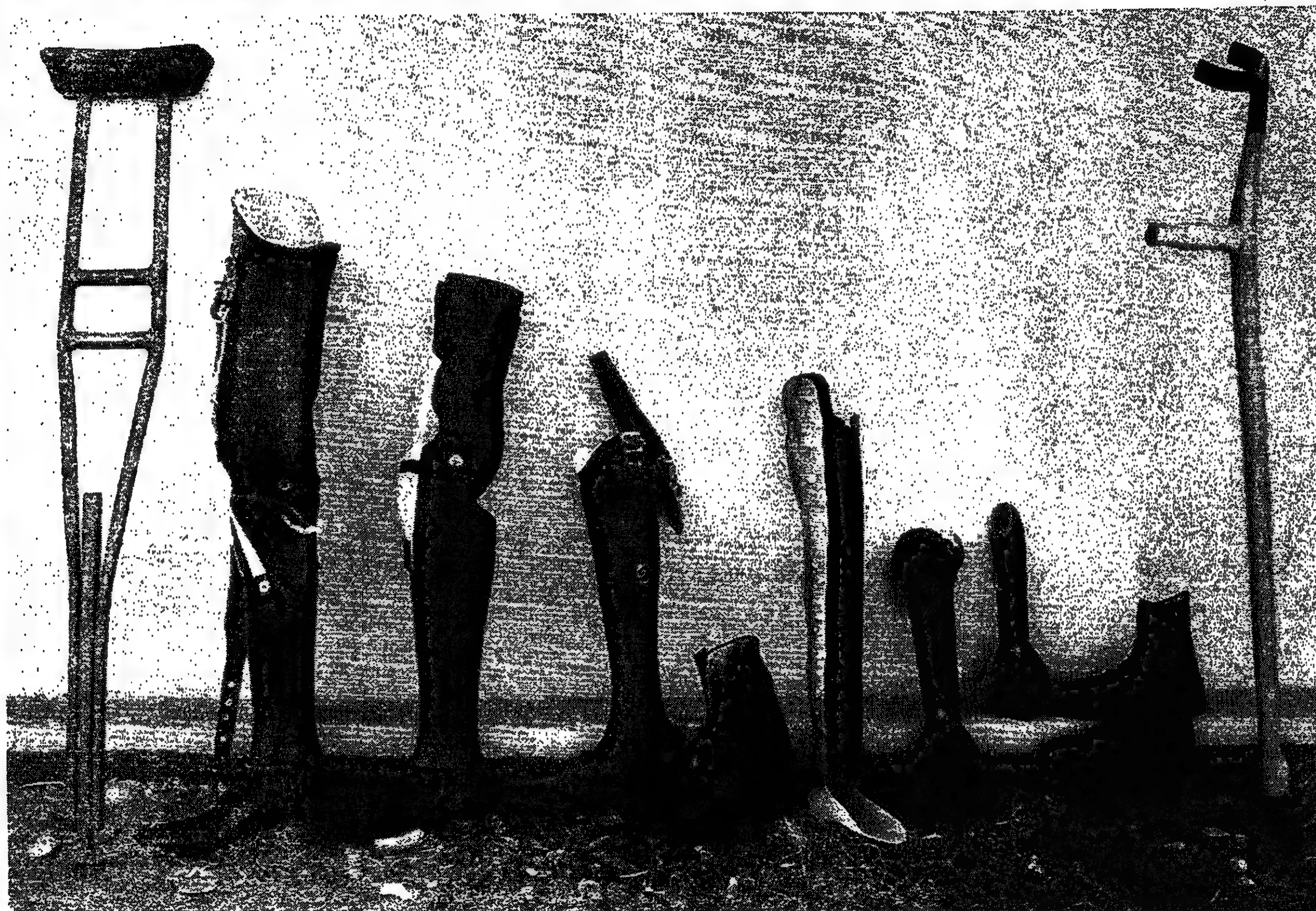
POST OFFICE

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

these two decisions in this column next week.

FORGET LONDON, PARIS AND ROME. THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN IN PHNOM PENH ARE WEARING.



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the situation in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the weapons.

Cambodia is literally being crippled by anti-personnel landmines.

They are an incredibly cheap form of warfare (costing as little as 3 US dollars each). So to seize some tactical advantage combatants think nothing of deploying scores of these weapons.

In a single 1km stretch of road in Cambodia 6,000 landmines were found.

They are also deployed with scant regard for the indigenous population.

It is the men, women and children out working the fields who are most likely to fall victim to these hidden killers.

And in an agricultural society where muscle power means survival, the loss of a limb can have repercussions far beyond the physical disability.

Take just one of Cambodia's victims. Chhea Veou was 19 when she lost a leg walking to harvest rice in a paddy.

"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't have a leg."

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest

time. She shrugs. "What else can I do?"

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Gartmore gets its timing right for Japanese launch



Japanese consumers are taking a different attitude and looking outwards

Japanese dignitaries bidding farewell to President Clinton on Thursday night were able to do so on a happy note. In Britain at least one fund manager was equally happy with the outcome of the US presidential visit. In particular, he was pleased that it coincided with news that the politically sensitive and huge trade surplus between America and Japan had fallen by 27 per cent in the year to March. Indeed, the whole timing of the President's Japanese visit could not have fallen better for Michael Wrobel, managing director of Gartmore, who this week unveiled plans for a new Select Japanese Investment

Trust. Last year nothing went right for Japan and the market indicators were largely negative. A soaring yen, zero growth, little inward investment, banking scandals and an ever growing trade surplus with the US all acted as a drag on the long-mooted recovery of the world's second largest stock market. This year is different, says Mr Wrobel. While other major world stock markets, including our own FT-SE 100 and the US Dow Jones industrial average, are reaching new highs, the Japanese market is still 40 per cent below its all-time high in December 1989. This, in theory at least, should leave

plenty of room for capital growth prospects. According to the latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey, UK fund managers are heavy buyers of Japanese equities, with 77 per cent taking a bullish view on the next 12 months. With the Japanese Government easing the heavy burden of regulation, consumers are discovering an appetite for foreign goods. Car manufacturers, for example, are beginning to make inroads into the domestic market, making distributors a natural buy for the new Gartmore trust.

Mr Wrobel also points out that the number of personal computers in Japan is 14 per 100 people, compared with 46 in the US. The comparable statistics for mobile telephones are 7 per 100 in Japan and 12 per 100 in America.

Gartmore, which last week became part of the NatWest empire, has taken the house view to be overweight in Japan and underrepresented in the US market. Mr Wrobel points to the most positive indicators being a weak yen, political stability, record low interest rates and the return of capital expenditure on much needed investment in companies and rising retail sales.

The Wrobel approach to individual stockpicking will be the "top down" approach with the sector or industry coming first and then being narrowed down to the company. He adds: "The trust's portfolio is expected to maintain a relatively broad spread of invest-

ments, comprising between 60 and 70 individual holdings, with initial emphasis placed on smaller and medium-sized companies in domestic manufacturing, electronics and real estate. We will also emphasise themes including companies which will benefit from a weaker yen or from structural change, for example, the rapidly growing personal computer market."

This will be the first trust launch since the £470 million NatWest acquisition and Gartmore will be out to prove its mettle with its new owner.

Still in the Pacific Rim but this time excluding Japan, is a new Asian Values investment trust from Fidelity which will be launched officially next week. K.C. Lee, who will manage the newcomer, will cast his net wide and include markets such as India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China.

Finally, TR Pacific Investment Trust yesterday announced that its bid for Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust had been successful. The TR trust, managed by Michael Watt, offered new TR Pacific ordinary shares, or a cash alternative, for a Thornton trust that had long languished at the bottom end of the performance scale.

The TR bid was neat and clinical. Many other poor performers should sit up and take note. Gartmore: 0800 919 727 Fidelity: 0800 414171.

ROBERT MILLER

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PRUDENTIAL

Bid talk generates National Power

The million or so shareholders in National Power have seen the value of their holdings rise by nearly 20 per cent over the last week on speculation that Southern, the Atlanta-based utility, is seeking a merger (Caroline Merrell writes). Although NP rejected the idea that the two should talk, the share price remained at around 590p yesterday, up from 492p at the start of the week.

Analysts believe that despite National Power's reticence, a merger or takeover may still be on the cards. Southern could come back with a formal hostile bid. Southern successfully bought South Western Electricity (Sweb) through a hostile bid last year for a price of 96p — representing a return of 302 per cent on the issue price of 240p in 1990. National Power believes that combining with Southern of the US and its subsidiary Sweb is not as good an option as its own strategy of bidding for Southern Electricity of the UK.

However, the outcome of this latter bid, and any future plans for Southern of the US to snap up National Power, will hinge on a decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. It is expected he will decide whether to approve National Power's bid for Southern in the next ten days. This decision about allowing vertical integration between generators and the regional electricity companies could also affect the remaining four independent electricity companies — Yorkshire, Northern, East Midlands and London.

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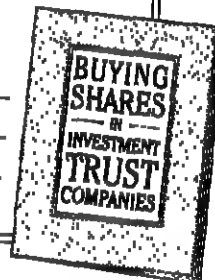
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Helen Pridham on securing an adequate pension for the rest of your life

Can retirement come too soon?



PENSIONS GUIDE

PART

8

Retirement cannot come soon enough for many of us. A recent survey by Barclays found that 68 per cent of people hope to retire before 60 — a third of them would like to stop working before 50.

Retirement is no longer seen as the end of the road but an opportunity for people to lead a more satisfying existence doing what they want. Early retirement has also become more common as companies have cut costs by offering early retirement as an option to older, more expensive staff.

Among men aged 60-64, the percentage of those working has fallen from more than 80 per cent in the early 1970s to just over 50 per cent in the early 1990s.

To enjoy an early retirement, though, it is necessary to have an adequate pension. This is why many end up working longer than they would like, because they find that once they have done their sums, the idea of living on a small pension becomes less attractive.

Clive Scott Hopkins, of Towry Law, the financial advisers, said: "Anybody contemplating early retirement needs to consider well in advance how much income they will need so that they can build up their pension by making extra savings."

"Members of company pension schemes should consider topping up with additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) and making full use of their pension allowances. Personal pension investors have the advantage that they can top up missed contributions in past years."

Your potential pension on early retirement will depend on a number of factors, such as the type of pension you have, the length of time you have contributed, the terms of the scheme and the circumstances in which you take early retirement. In almost all cases, however, retiring early will mean you get a lower pension than if you had waited until your normal retirement age.

This is partly because you will have made fewer contributions and/or completed fewer years of service. It is also due to the fact that your pension will have to be spread over a longer period. For example, a man who retires at 55 will, on average, draw his pension for seven years longer than a man who

stops working at 65. You won't get more (unless you live longer than expected) because the amount of your pension will generally be lower throughout. In addition, you may incur early retirement penalties if you retire before a specific age. These will vary between schemes.

Occupational Schemes

ACCORDING to the latest annual survey of the National Association of Pension Funds, 60 per cent of schemes still have a normal pension age of 65, while 28 per cent set their pension age at 60, with the remainder somewhere in between.

The majority of schemes which have had to equalise the pension age for men and women have equalised at 65 rather than 60, though where this has involved raising the age employers will usually allow retirement at the previous pension age without penalty.

Anyone who wants to go earlier than this, however, may be penalised. Peter Timberlake, Legal & General's marketing manager, says: "In a final salary scheme, people can lose out in two ways — not only will they have fewer years' service, an early retirement discount may also be applied to their normal pension entitlement. This discount is typically 0.5 per cent for every month their retirement precedes the normal pension age. So someone who wanted to retire five years early, say, would not only have five years' less service but would also incur a 30 per cent early retirement penalty."

This makes early retirement at your own request rather unattractive, unless you can defer drawing your pension until the normal age and live off other income or capital in the meantime. However, if early retirement is offered by an employer



Retirement is often seen as something affecting the elderly, but how you earn your living can dictate a "premature" pension date. The minimum age dancers can jump for joy is 35

seeking to reduce staffing, penalties may be removed to encourage volunteers. If the employer is really generous, the full period of service you would have completed to normal retirement age will also be used in your pension calculations. Such concessions may also be made if your retirement is because of ill-health.

In employers' money purchase schemes, the level of pension you get on early retirement will depend mainly on the size of your pension fund and annuity rates at the time. Some schemes may also have early retirement penalties, though employers can augment your pension if they are anxious to shed staff. Still, you could suffer because of the lower annuity rates

that apply at younger ages. Bob Marriott, pensions specialist at Sedgewick Noble Lowndes, says: "It may be worth considering a switch to a pension income withdrawal scheme which would enable you to take a cash sum, say, to pay off your mortgage plus a minimum income, if you could supplement it with income from other sources so that you could defer buying your annuity until you are older."

Personal Pensions

BENEFITS from a personal pension policy can be taken from the age of 50, unless you are a member of a profession given special dispensation by the Inland Revenue to retire earlier (see list). However, there may be early retirement penalties imposed by your insurer to recoup costs if you take your pension before the end of a certain term or age. Check this out before going ahead. It may be better to wait a few years until the penalty is lifted.

The size of your pension fund will depend on how much you have saved and the investment returns achieved by your pension provider.

Mr Timberlake says: "The problem is that many people simply do not invest enough in their personal pension to be able to afford to retire early." The other main variable is annuity rates. The younger you are the more expensive they are. A married man of 55 with a pension fund of £100,000, for example, will get a pension £1,250 less than someone of 65. Shopping around for the best annuity rates may help you to get a better deal, and if it is anticipated that interest rates are about to rise, it may be worth postponing your retirement until annuity rates improve. Alternatively, a phased retirement, or pension income withdrawal scheme, could be used to delay annuity purchase.

State Pensions

THERE is no provision under the state pension scheme for early retirement, unless you retire through ill-health in which case you may qualify for other state benefits. Otherwise you will have to wait until normal retirement age.

If you take early retirement before age 60, there is even a danger that you may have a gap in your National Insurance record which could affect your entitlement to a full basic state pension.

Provided that you "sign on", however, you will receive NI credits which will bridge this gap.

MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGES

The following are from personal pension schemes for certain occupations

Occupation	Retirement Age
Admiral	35
Archaeologist	35
Barman	35
Bookkeeper	35
Cricket	35
Cyclist	35
Dancer	35
Driver (satellite, deep sea and tree swimming)	35
Footballer	35
Golfers	35
Jockey	35
Journalist	35
Model	35
Motor Cycle Riders (motorcycle or road racing)	35
Motor Testing Drivers	35
Royal Marine Reservists (non-commissioned)	35
Rugby League Players	35
Skiers (downhill)	35
Speedway Riders	35
Squash Players	35
Table Tennis Players	35
Tennis Players	35
Trampoline	35
Windsurfer	35

Source: Inland Revenue

LENGTH OF RETIREMENT

Average years life expectancy at different ages

Current age	Male	Female
50	24.3	26.4
55	20.1	22.0
60	16.4	18.9
65	13.0	17.0

ANNUITIES AND INCOME

Average fund size of £100,000, joint life annuity payable monthly in advance

Male age	Female age	Pension per year £
50	45	7,962
55	50	8,298
60	55	8,535
65	60	8,649

Source: Legal & General

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African queens of the road ready to rule in London



Kimaiyo: highly-rated

ONE of the last havens for distance runners, where they have felt safe from the tide of Kenyan success, is about to be stormed. The women's section of the London Marathon has never had a Kenyan woman in the top ten, but three will be seeking to make their mark tomorrow, emphasising a fundamental change in their society's attitude towards women who run.

Kenyan women are increasingly mirroring the achievements of their all-conquering men. Their team victory at the world cross-country championships last month was their fifth in six years; on the track they have been prominent in the last three world championships, and Tegla Loroupe has won the New York City Marathon for the past two years.

"The girl most likely to shock at this year's marathon," was how

David Powell discovers that Kenya's women runners are no longer content to let the men have all the glory

David Bedford, the elite race director, introduced Hellen Kimaiyo to the press this week. The two other Kenyans are Angelina Kanana and Joyce Chepchumba. Kanana set a national record of 2hr 27min 41sec when finishing second in Berlin last autumn. Chepchumba is, according to her manager, Volker Wagner, ready to run "at least as fast as 2hr 27min". No woman has recorded quicker than 2hr 27min since 1991.

"First of all she likes running, but one race brings more money than a year's income in Kenya," Wagner said. Once it was the case that Kenyan women would be tied to the home, especially mothers like

Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, but now the men see them as tickets to wealth. "Joyce had a boyfriend who was looking for someone in sport," Wagner added. "I told her she had to be careful because these women are wanted because they are rich."

Even before she won in New York for the first time, Loroupe could afford a house. "If she was not a runner, she would have to work for 40 years to buy her first house," Wagner said. "Very few Kenyan women have a chance to buy their own home." Chepchumba has also purchased property out of her prize-money and the winner's purse of \$55,000 (about £36,600) plus a

\$10,000 bonus for times of sub 2hr 28min tomorrow, are powerful incentives for her to run as quickly as her manager suggests she should. She recorded 2hr 33min 51sec in New York last November without training specifically for the marathon. This time she has. She has prepared with Loroupe, who was second in the Boston Marathon on Monday in 2hr 28min 37sec. "Joyce did the same training as Tegla," Wagner said, which is why he is confident she is a contender to win in London.

Chepchumba and Kimaiyo are employed by the Kenyan Post Office — the place to work if you want to develop from a promising runner into a successful one. "If they represent the company in events at home, they are given leave to compete in Europe," Wagner said. Kimaiyo brings a best half-

marathon time of 69min 13sec to her first marathon, quick enough to indicate that "maybe", as she put it, she has a chance of winning. She has left her husband at home in Nairobi in charge of their two children. "This is my part-time job and I can do it because of the understanding of my husband," she said. "He realises that when I run, it benefits the whole family. My husband encourages me, which is why I continue working hard in training."

Kimaiyo and Chepchumba, both from the Rift Valley, are close friends and, to begin with, at least, they will stick close to each other tomorrow. Kimaiyo will use her compatriot's greater experience to measure her pace. "We used to believe that only the men could run fast," Kimaiyo said. Tomorrow, London will see for itself how times have changed.

Maynard's sense of adventure dampened

By Pat Gibson

FENNER'S (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Glamorgan

MATTHEW MAYNARD, the new Glamorgan captain, yesterday settled for four centuries in the match, including one for himself, instead of trying to manufacture a finish after drizzle had delayed the start of the final day until 20 minutes after lunch.

Cambridge University understood his predicament. They were itching for a run-chase but they knew that it was too much to expect on a pitch on which their bowlers took only two wickets while conceding 510 runs in the two Glamorgan innings.

Maynard would have liked to be more positive but felt the

and James played well. Maynard, 66 overnight, wasted no time in completing his hundred, which came in two hours off 92 balls with a six and 12 fours. He then retired with spasms in his lower back that prevented him from taking the field later and must be a cause for concern in view of his responsibilities this season.

James, meanwhile, was accelerating towards his second century against his old university. It took him more than three hours and contained only eight fours but his second 50 came at a run as he began to rediscover the momentum that brought him more than 1,000 runs in his limited-overs cricket last year.

There was just time for House to provide Cambridge with their only wicket of the day with a well-judged running catch to dismiss Cottee off Jones before Maynard declared at 248 for one — 286 ahead with only 80 minutes left.

The rest was an anti-climax for the University batsmen. Ragnauth was leg-before pulling at Thomas, Smith, a century in the first innings, was caught behind off Watkin and Singh, having demonstrated his flair with four successive boundaries, was brilliantly caught by the substitute, Evans, before they closed at 32 for three.

weather had the final word. "If we had had a full day's play, I would have given them a 3½-hour chase," he said. "As it was, I thought it was important for our batsmen to have a knock because we haven't been able to get outside since our pre-season trip to Pretoria."

He also wanted them to get some runs under their belts. None of them had made a hundred in South Africa, so centuries for Morris and Hemp in the first innings, Maynard himself and James in the second, were just what was required.

The Cambridge bowling is nothing like as strong as their batting but, like Morris and Hemp before them, Maynard

GLAMORGAN: First innings 288 for 1 dec (H Morris 128 not out, D L Hemp 103 not out)

Second innings
S P James not out 102
M P Maynard retired hurt 100
P A Cottee c House b Jones 21
D L Hemp not out 19
Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 12) 19
Total (1 wk dec) 248

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-224 (Ragnauth 13-1-58-0; Morris 13-0-64-0; Watkin 7-0-30-0; How 3-1-48-0; House 6-0-29-0; Jones 7-1-21-1)
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First innings 225 for 3 dec (E T Smith 101, A Singh 52 not out)

Second innings
R T Ragnauth bow b Thomas 4
E T Smith c Morris b Hemp 18
S P George c sub b Watkin 18
P R Cottee not out 18
W J House not out 13
Extras (lb 1, w 1, nb 2) 4
Total (2 wks) 362

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-28, 3-29
BOWLING: Morris 4-1-10-1; Thomas 3-0-16-1; Cottee 4-2-24-0; Hemp 3-1-13-1
Umpires: R A White and J W Lloyd



Maynard pulls to the boundary during his century at Fenner's yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

West Indies pace floors New Zealand

WEST Indies had much the better of the opening morning of the first Test match in Bridgetown yesterday, reducing the visitors to 96 for five by lunch.

New Zealand, who were six for three after half an hour, enjoyed something of a recovery thanks to an aggressive fourth-wicket stand of 80 between Nathan Astle and Adam Parore, before Patterson Thompson, making his Test debut on his home ground, took two quick wickets.

Put in to bat, New Zealand lost both openers with the score on two. Curtly Ambrose

made the breakthrough, removing Craig Spearman without scoring by way of a wicketkeeper's catch. Four balls later, Ambrose's new-ball partner, Courtney Walsh, struck. Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman, was caught by Robert Samuels, the other newcomer in the West Indies side, at third slip for two.

In his next over, Walsh sent back the dangerous Stephen Fleming. The 23-year-old left-hander's flick off his pads picked out Chanderpaul around the corner at backward short leg.

Astle was the principal ag-

gressor as New Zealand fought back, taking particularly to the bowling of the burly Thompson. Astle, who had been hit on the chin in the opening match of the tour by the fast bowler, lashed him for four fours in his opening over. Thompson, who delivered 12 no-balls all told, was rested after his first two overs had cost 25 runs.

But it was the 24-year-old Barbadian who broke the partnership. Switched to the South End, Thompson forced Astle to edge to the wicketkeeper. Astle made 54, his highest Test score. He was at the crease for an hour

and 11 minutes, faced 52 balls and hit ten fours.

In the same over, Thompson also removed Chris Harris for nought. Harris was unlucky to be given out as the ball seemed to hit his forearm rather than the bat or gloves on its way through to Brian Lara at first slip.

Parore was unbeaten with 23 at the break, having been in for just over an hour and a half. He had hit five fours and faced 59 balls. Walsh's two wickets came at a cost of ten runs from seven overs; Thompson, by contrast, had conceded 39 runs from his four overs.

S Africans find cup consolation in desert

SOUTH AFRICA, finding some consolation for their uncharacteristically meek exit from the cricket World Cup, won the Sharjah Cup yesterday, defeating India by 38 runs in the final of a competition that they dominated from start to finish.

Having subsided to a World Cup quarter-final defeat at the hands of the West Indies in March, when their performances in the round-robin stage — and against England shortly before that — had marked them out as potential winners, they were pleased to find material proof of their one-day credentials in the United Arab Emirates.

"We have achieved almost all the goals we set for this season, except the big one [the World Cup]," Hansie Cronje, their captain, said. "The wicket here wasn't easy to bowl at, but full marks to our bowlers who all did tremendous jobs."

It was, however, a batsman, Gary Kirsten, who played the most important role, scoring 115. Able support from an unlikely source, Pat Symcox, and a more predictable one, Brian McMillan, enabled South Africa to reach a formidable 287-5.

The India openers, Vikram Rathore and Sachin Tendulkar, gave their side an encouraging start, but four run-outs accounted for batsmen who appeared to be capable of maintaining the required momentum.

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten not out 115
A D Jaffer c Richardson b Smith 81
D J Cullinan b Prasad 2
P T Symcox c Jaffer b Raju 61
W J Cronje c Ramchand b Prasad 41
D N Coetzee c Rathore b Kumble 37
B M McMillan not out 26
Extras (lb 5, w 16) 21
Total (5 wk dec, 50 overs) 287

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-115, 4-175, 5-227
BOWLING: Smith 10-1-51-1; Prasad 10-0-50-1; Tendulkar 7-0-31-0; Kumble 10-1-42-2; Raju 9-0-70-1; Jaffer 4-0-18-0

INDIA
V S Rathore c Richardson b Matthews 23
S R Tendulkar run out 61
A Kumble run out 10
N S Sena c Matthews b Cronje 26
S V Manjrekar run out 41
M Azaad run out 39
A D Jaffer c Cullinan b McMillan 10
J Smith c Richardson b de Villiers 10
TN R Mongia c and b Pollock 23
B A V Prasad not out 5
B L V Raju not out 5
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 2) 13
Total (10 wk dec, 50 overs) 249

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-78, 3-115, 4-130, 5-204, 6-208, 7-209, 8-243, 9-248
BOWLING: de Villiers 10-0-42-1; Pollock 10-1-45-1; Symcox 6-0-33-0; Cronje 4-0-25-1
Man of the match and tournament: G Kirsten
Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and M J Kitchin (England)

Hickeys at home beat Piggotts to win final

MICHAEL HICKEY and his son, Mark, won the Father and Son golf tournament at their home club, West Hill, Surrey, yesterday. They beat the Piggotts, of Littlehampton and Perivale, in the final by two and one, having removed the strong favourites, Robbie and Mark James, of Walton Heath, in the semi-finals.

Three up at the 6th against the Piggotts, who were conceding four shots, the Hickeys fell away badly around the turn. Then Michael Hickey steadied the ship by winning the 13th and halving the 14th. Thereafter it was thrust and counter-thrust and three sterling halves in par figures saw the Hickeys home.

Calzaghe test

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe defends his British super-middleweight title against Mark Delaney, of West Ham, at Brentwood tonight. Calzaghe, 24, from Newbridge, Gwent, is unbeaten as a professional, but his first 15 opponents did not test him greatly. He was less impressive, despite beating Stephen Wilson to win the British title.

Delaney, 24, the World Boxing Organisation intercontinental champion, also has an unbeaten record, having won all his 21 contests.

Double trouble

Badminton: Joanne Wright and Julie Bradbury lost 15-12, 10-15, 15-4 to the Danish No 3 seeds, Marlene Thomsen and Lisbet Stuer-Lauridsen, in the semi-finals of the European championship yesterday, casting doubts on their prospects for a medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Bradbury and Simon Archer, seeded to win the mixed doubles title, then lost the final 18-16, 15-3 to the Danish No 2 seeds, Michael Sogaard and Rikke Olsen.

Arsenal entertain!

Football: Arsenal Ladies entertain Wolves today and Villa Aztecs tomorrow hoping to consolidate their position in second place behind Doncaster Belles in the national league. Wolves are searching for their first point of the season, while Villa need to win and hope Ickstone Town gain no points from their next two games if they, too, are to avoid relegation.



The Times cricket game returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 18-page guide on Monday. Make sure of your copy of The Times, the paper for cricket.

Marathon man juggles many records

THIS column has never failed to salute great men and women when it comes across them, and so let us celebrate this week the amazing Terry Cole, perhaps the most remarkable man that Walthamstow has produced. Cole, 37, runs in the Flora London Marathon tomorrow, but so common a form of madness as mere running is not for Cole. Cole's is a high and lonely destiny. He is seeking to break the world record of 3hr 22min 53sec.

You may argue that the world best for a marathon is actually 2hr 06min 50sec, but that is the record for men of small ambition who merely run all the way. Cole has his sights on the world marathon three-ball juggling record, which is held by a Jamaican, Asheretta Foreman.

Breaking a world record will not be a new departure for Cole. He already holds four of them. He is the world record-holder for balancing pint beer glasses on his chin — 50 of them. He holds the world record for balancing (slightly scyphopically, I thought) copies of the Guinness Book of Records on his chin, with 28. He has the world record for one-arm press-ups, this being 8,335 in five hours, all on his right arm. Finally, he has the world record for steps onto a 16-inch bench, with 2,362.



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

training for tomorrow includes 11 hours and four minutes of continuous three-ball juggling without dropping one. Oh, and he once dribbled a basketball for 90 miles, but I do not think that was a record attempt; that was just something you do in your spare time.

Reds alert

Marge Schott, old friend of this column and owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, has been at it again. An umpire died during the Reds' first home game of the season. The game was stopped at once. The supporters went home. Schott went on record as blaming the press for the cancellation and saying that she "felt cheated". After inevitable outrage at this, Schott made amends the following day by walking onto the field — naturally with her St Bernard, Schottzie II — to apologise, just as the first pitch was about to be thrown. Once more, sensibilities were outraged. The woman has a

Risky business

A press release reaches me from the British Police rugby league team, which is to tour Australia in June and take part in the police World Cup final in Sydney. I pass on this information at considerable personal risk, but I am like that. For the release concludes: "The information contained in this fax is confidential and intended

only for the person named. Any unauthorised dissemination or disclosure of its contents or copying of this fax and the use or disclosure of its contents is strictly prohibited. Please notify immediately by telephone if this fax has been sent to you in error." Ooh-er.

Pitch battle

More news from the lawcourts of the United States, where Franz Kafka walks ever more boldly through the world of sport. Diane Hearn, of Pace, Florida, is suing Terry Pendleton, the baseball player, a hitter formerly with the Atlanta Braves, now with the Florida Marlins, for \$50,000 (about £33,300). She claims that when the Braves were playing at Philadelphia in 1993, Pendleton threw a ball into the stands: a routine goodwill gesture. The ball landed under Hearn's seat. In the scramble for the ball, she claims that she suffered "multiple contusions about the head, body, back and limbs; multiple internal and external injuries to the back and neck resulting in injuries to muscles, nerves, discs, bones and ligaments". She is also suing the Braves. Her husband is suing as well, on the grounds that he has been "deprived of the love, affection and consortium of his wife". I will never again

reports that a football club is to be bought by "a consortium".

Woman rules

Australia has been split down the middle. A woman — you know, not a *bloke* — has been appointed to a disciplinary tribunal of the sport of Australian No Rules Football. Australia is a bit funny about women, and about women in sport — like all other countries — so naturally the place is in a state of outrage. The woman in question is Elaine Canty, who will be the only woman on the nine-person panel; from this, judges for disciplinary matters are selected in threes. "I could use all the clichés about obstetricians not having had babies and judges not having broken the law," Canty said. She added that it was "a terrific gesture" and that she could smell "a token tart's job from a mile off".

Others were less sanguine. Gareth Andrews, a former player with mighty Geelong, summed matters up with all the acuteness of which an Aussie Rules footballer is capable. "I suspect that women love the rawness. They love the manliness. They love the physicality... they talk about it the next day just as much as the blokes do — maybe more. They love being outsiders looking in."

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Cecil's filly passes Newbury trial with flying colours

Bosra Sham tightens classic grip

By JULIAN MUSCAT

BOSRA SHAM came through yesterday's Alhaarth trial with flying colours. She ran away with the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday to strengthen her grip on the 1,000 Guineas.

It was a thoroughly professional performance from Bosra Sham, who ensured she will arrive at Newmarket as the odds-on favourite for the fourth time in as many career outings. She has now won her races by a combined total of 13 lengths, and it will take an exceptional horse to lower her colours in the fillies' classic on May 5.

No horse has yet finished within 3½ lengths of her, and none looked likely to yesterday from the moment Pat Eddery shook her from her lethargy to dismiss her nearest pursuer, the 66-1 chance Keepers Dawn, by six lengths. Her opponents were an excep-

tional lot. Najiya, her principal opponent, pulled her way out of contention. But that detail aside, it was impossible to fault Bosra Sham.

Remarkably, Henry Cecil, her trainer, suggested Bosra Sham was some way from her peak. "She will be a lot better for the race," he said. "She hasn't quite come in her coat. I've been trying to hold it through the cold weather and she should look very well come the Guineas."

Yet Cecil, ever the realist, warned that the outcome was not a formality. "Classic races take a lot of winning. We must hope the luck goes our way. But I wouldn't swap her for anything else in the race."

If Cecil recognised the pitfalls, Eddery's enthusiasm was more obvious. The 1,000 Guineas is a peculiar omission from Eddery's catalogue of major successes, but the jockey clearly feels Bosra

Sham will brighten matters. "This is the best chance I've had of winning the race," he said. "I can't find a chink in her armour and the more I ride her, the more I like her."

So confident is Eddery that he dismissed the threat of Blue Duster in two memorabilia

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLAN BEN

(3.30 Newbury)

Next best: Penny A Day

(4.40 Ayr)

sentences. "Blue Duster is very fast but I'd be confident of beating her over six furlongs. Mine has so much speed yet she is ideally suited by a mile." Indeed, just about the only glimmer afforded connections of Bosra Sham's opponents is that the filly, a full-sister to the

French classic winner, Hector Protector, has excelled on easy ground.

Cecil is unperturbed by the likely fast surface at Newmarket. And Bosra Sham's action does not highlight any cause for concern — she won her maiden on good to firm ground. Although she has it to prove under such conditions, she is unquestionably the one to beat.

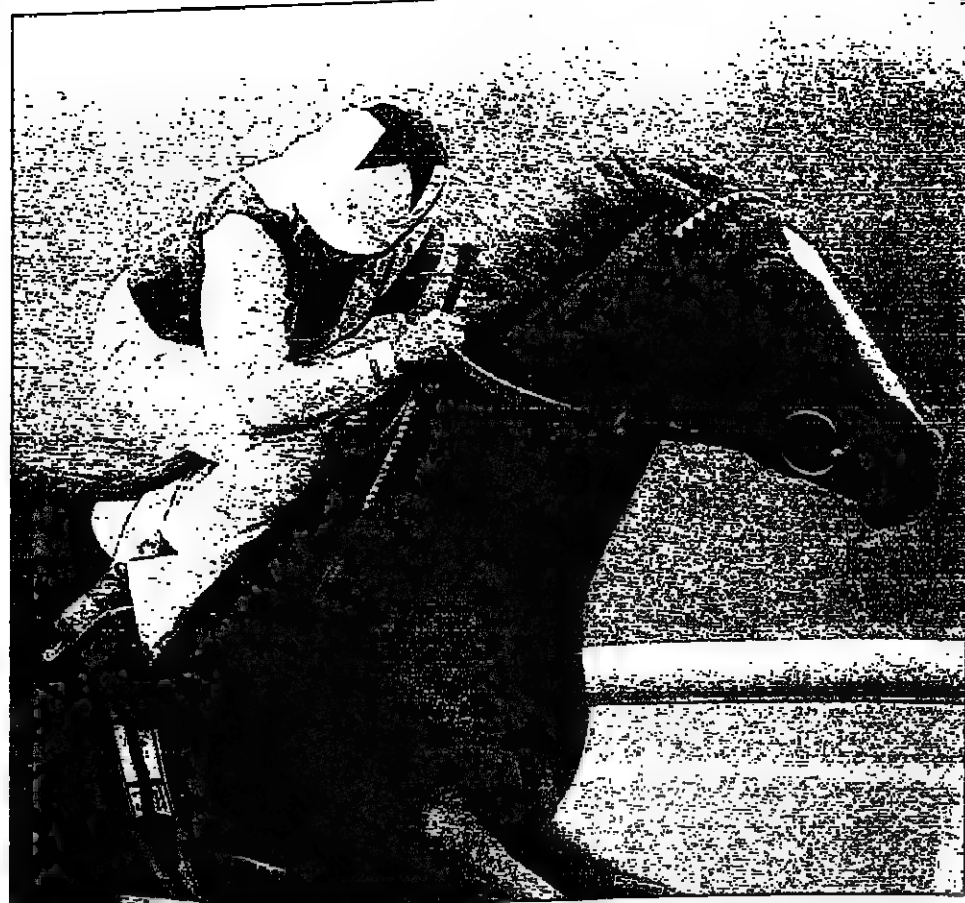
Bosra Sham, at 530,000 guineas the top-priced yearling sold in Europe in 1994, looks almost certain to miss the Oaks and has been scratched from the betting by William Hill, although Eddery believes Bosra Sham's relaxed attitude may help her get further than a mile.

Bosra Sham's victory consolidated Cecil's gains at the Craven meeting at Newmarket earlier in the week. But the master of Warren Place suffered a reversal in the Peter

Smith Memorial Maiden Stakes for three-year-olds when his Set Adrift, backed down to favouritism, was emphatically beaten by Air Quest, a fellow debutant, trained by Roger Charlton.

Charlton landed this race six years ago with Air Quest's full-brother, Quest For Fame, who, of course, went on to triumph in the Derby. But the trainer talked down such prospects for Air Quest, a taller, less mature specimen than his illustrious relation. This rain-soaked ground proved ideal for Air Quest, who looks a resolute galloper.

Earlier, Peter Chapple-Hyam introduced a precocious juvenile in the shape of Daylight In Dubai, who showed too much resolution for Granny's Pet in the closing stages of the Bechampton Maiden Stakes. Owned by Peter Savill, Daylight In Dubai is bound for Royal Ascot.



Eddery can afford to look over his shoulder as Bosra Sham cruises home at Newbury

Bright Water is clear choice

NEWBURY

BBC1



2.00: Henry Cecil has won previous runnings of this race with Old Vic and Belmez and it will be something of a surprise if Bright Water does not oblige for the in-form trainer. Well regarded at home, he produced high-level maiden form when winning his only start last term and the Derby entrant should relish this trip. Mystic Knight is also entered for the Epsom classic and looks more of a threat than Maiden Castle.

2.30: The ground will be perfect for Moonax, and the 1994 St Leger winner has won first time out for the past two seasons. Commoner, narrowly defeated in the September Stakes at Kempton, looks set for another good season.

3.00: Woodhouse, just below the very best last year and beaten a neck by Danehill Daner in Ireland, has delighted Peter Chapple-Hyam with his work, but in a tricky heat I just prefer Tagula. Winner of the group one Prix Morny last year, he was below his best after a rushed preparation for the Dewhurst and can show that form to be wrong today.

3.30: A low draw is invariably an advantage here and Clan Ben stands out in stall six. Twice a winner over a mile last term, he was considered good enough by Cecil in run in listed company on his final start last term. This is only the seventh race of his career so there should be further improvement to come. Wicuma is fairly treated but normally needs his first few runs and Jawaal looks a bigger threat.

AYR

CHANNEL 4

2.55: Addington Bay successfully stepped up in class to take the Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree last time. While he drops back in trip,

Arcle Kinsman, second in the Arkle Chase and winner of a decent Aintree handicap, moves up from two miles and that should suit this potentially top-class chaser. He is just preferred to the Cahinch Chase winner, Challenger Du Luc.

3.25: Alderbrook can gain compensation for his Champion Hurdle defeat. Although Pridwell is 9lb better off after finishing just over eight lengths behind my selection at the Festival, it will be a surprise if the form is reversed. Hotel Minella ran well below form at the Festival but if the Irish raider returns to his best, he could prove the danger.

4.05: This marathon is won just as often by horses out of the handicap as by those running off their proper mark and Morgans Harbour can confirm the trend. He only made his seasonal reappearance at Aintree, where he was runner-up to All For Luck, and should appreciate this extended four miles. General Wolfe is one for the short-list along with Lo Stregone, who was forced to miss the Grand National at Aintree because of illness.

4.40: Penny A Day looks even better over hurdles than on the Flat and Mary Revely's dual purpose horse looks to have a very fair mark on his handicap debut. He will not lack for fitness having had two spins on the Flat since winning a valuable race at Kelso seven weeks ago.

RICHARD EVANS

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
2.00 Mystic Knight
2.30 Muralia
3.00 Danehill Dancer
3.30 WICUMA (nap)
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Bright Water.
3.00 Danehill Dancer. 3.30 PHANTOM QUEST (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACECOURSE

CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O £77,274. 1m 3f 5yds) (5 runners)

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Personal vendettas tearing game apart

WHATEVER the cost in bruised egos, it is high time the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs was resolved. Too much damage has been done to the sport's image by a highly public squabble and more may yet be sustained to its fabric should potential investors choose to look elsewhere.

Nothing is more important to the RFU than this. Without a unified front, every one of its activities is affected, be it negotiations worth millions over television — with or without its five nations' partners — or youth development officers around the regions endeavouring to encourage youngsters into a game evidently at odds with itself.

Yet this week there has been no movement to break the impasse. An informal four-hour meeting at the start of the week between Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's executive committee, and Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPURC), only left the sides further apart while the conference at Twickenham this weekend of the constituent bodies of the RFU, the counties, was apparently deemed of greater significance.

This is a ludicrous state of affairs, even allowing for the extraordinary situation this season of a game translating itself from amateurism to professionalism. The sides

David Hands says that the protagonists must step aside to resolve rugby union's dispute

have been polarised by the emergence of personalities above issues and if progress cannot be achieved any other way, then those personalities should be removed from the stage. The clubs have already made it abundantly clear that they cannot do business with Brittle; equally, the RFU resents what it perceives as interference from Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United Sporting Clubs and now a leading player in rugby. However, the RFU is in a cleft stick over Brittle. Last year it created the position of chairman precisely to meet the day-to-day demands of its burgeoning sport and relieve the president of some obligations; Peter Bromage died a week after taking office which forced a divisive election, won overwhelmingly by Brittle. To override his position now smacks of a blow in the face of democracy.

Yet the game in England is far bigger than a handful of individuals. No one was more critical of the RFU's fumbled first special general meeting this year than David Hiles, secretary of Finner and Gramarians, and no one ceded with better grace the improvement made before the second meeting. "This row appears to be

tearing our game apart," he said. "The feeling among the junior clubs is that the senior clubs can't do it all alone. If they try, we must have a unified game, one governing body and no splinter groups. I think the RFU are right to try to retain overall control but they don't seem to get to grips with everything in detail."

"Whether they have the manpower and the capability to organise these competitions from the centre, I'm not sure. Someone has to take on a co-ordinating role so we don't get a clash of interests. On the money side, my sympathies are with the clubs. Handouts are fine in the short term but sustaining the game over the years is a different kettle of fish."

Bill Bishop, the RFU president, has been added to the negotiating team and he must exert the authority of his office and hammer out an agreement, without Brittle on the union's side and without Sir John among the clubs. The RFU set a precedent for a change in emphasis this year when Bishop chaired the first special general meeting but left the second to be steered, not by Brittle but by Bob Rogers, a leading committee-man. What has been done once can be done again.



Sella will lead an international XV against Leicester at Twickenham tomorrow

Supporters give final verdict on professional era

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE predicted attendances at Twickenham today and tomorrow provide a timely commentary on the public perception of rugby union: the CIS county final this afternoon between Warwickshire and Gloucestershire will be fortunate to attract five figures while more than 30,000 are expected for the Sanyo Cup challenge match between Leicester and an international XV.

One is the culmination of the traditional game, the other a product of the professional era, the need to generate cash, for Twickenham to pay its way and parade stars before a public increasingly seeking entertainment and heedless of what has gone before.

As it happens, the match tomorrow could not now have come at a worse time for Leicester, embroiled as they are in the hectic climax to the Courage Clubs Championship season, trying to claw back Bath's advantage at the top of the table, which may be extended if Bath win heavily against Orrell today.

With both clubs having played 16 games and lost twice, Bath lead on points difference by 52, but they have never beaten Orrell by more than three points at Edgell Road in the league. Whether playing at Wigan's Central Park ground will make a difference remains to be seen

but they will offer more curiosity value than did Leicester last month, since it is Bath who play Wigan in the cross-code two-match series next month.

The county final will give Tim Smith the opportunity to play a last game at Twickenham before he retires. At 33, Smith, a scaffolder, is the epitome of the game as it was: a whole-hearted full back, sometimes a match-winner with his goal-kicking, which has helped him to 2,737 points over 14 years with Gloucester. He is part of the first Gloucestershire team to contest a final since 1994, whereas Warwickshire are holders and favourites.

Profits from Leicester's match against an international XV coached by Bob Dwyer, of Australia, will be shared among all the first-division clubs though, given the divisions between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its leading clubs, it is ironic that this match started life as a celebration of 125 years of rugby at Twickenham and that the visitors were billed as an RFU President's XV.

Still, Philippe Sella, the world's most-capped player, will lead a XV drawn from 11 countries that will match the Underwood brothers, Rory and Tony, against each other on the respective wings.

Jukes and Jones keep Welsh flag flying in title race

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

LOCAL pride, a key ingredient in this parochial sport, is of little consequence when compared with a country's honour and Welsh patriotism is spurring on Jamie Jukes and Pip Jones in their respective title challenges.

It is 13 years since a Welsh rider, John Lewellyn, won a national championship but Jukes, a timber merchant from Penrhyn in Dyfed, is making steady progress towards the leaders in the men's championship.

He fully justified the journey from his home to the Tiverton meeting in Devon on Wednesday by riding a double on Dauphin Bleu and Otter Mill, the latter for Oliver Carter.

Those victories took his tally to 15, three behind Alastair Crow and Andrew Parker. However, he seems likely to be awarded another victory after an inquiry at Portman Square on Wednesday when his second place on The Rum Mariner at the Brecon will be promoted if it is found Lislyad did not carry the correct penalty.

Today, he rides at the Peatridge meeting and tomorrow teams up with redoubtable trainer Bert Lavis for at least five rides at the Peatridge, where Cedar Square is one of his likely winners.

Jones will be an anxious

spectator, having ridden a double last week which took her to the head of the national women's table with 20 winners. A subsequent fall required hospital treatment and she is ruled out until next week at the earliest. Handsome Harvey, her best ride, is being kept back in the hope she recovers quickly.

Polly Curling is now four behind Jones after winning on Flaked Oats at the Tiverton fixture, where Rupert Nuttall and Shirley Vickery rode doubles. Curling partners still in business at the Aze Vale today and on Qannas at the Isle of Wight tomorrow.

Today's feature race is the men's open at the Worcester-shire for the Lady Dudley Cup. Lochingall, Bankhead and Fiddlers Three all miss the race and Lighten The Load could take advantage. Being trained in Wales, he will not lack support.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Aze Vale, Shalford, 12.00; Brecon, 1.30; Peatridge, 2.00; Tiverton, 2.30; Worcester-shire, 3.00; Aze Vale, 3.30; Peatridge, 4.00; Tiverton, 4.30; Worcester-shire, 5.00; Aze Vale, 5.30; Peatridge, 6.00; Tiverton, 6.30; Worcester-shire, 7.00; Aze Vale, 7.30; Peatridge, 8.00; Tiverton, 8.30; Worcester-shire, 9.00; Aze Vale, 9.30; Peatridge, 10.00; Tiverton, 10.30; Worcester-shire, 11.00; Aze Vale, 11.30; Peatridge, 12.00; Tiverton, 12.30; Worcester-shire, 1.00; Aze Vale, 1.30; Peatridge, 2.00; Tiverton, 2.30; Worcester-shire, 3.00; Aze Vale, 3.30; Peatridge, 4.00; Tiverton, 4.30; Worcester-shire, 5.00; Aze Vale, 5.30; Peatridge, 6.00; Tiverton, 6.30; Worcester-shire, 7.00; Aze Vale, 7.30; Peatridge, 8.00; Tiverton, 8.30; Worcester-shire, 9.00; Aze Vale, 9.30; Peatridge, 10.00; Tiverton, 10.30; Worcester-shire, 11.00; Aze Vale, 11.30; Peatridge, 12.00; Tiverton, 12.30; Worcester-shire, 1.00; Aze Vale, 1.30; Peatridge, 2.00; Tiverton, 2.30; Worcester-shire, 3.00; Aze Vale, 3.30; 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Scot one stroke behind leaders

Montgomerie well positioned for first American win

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN HILTON HEAD ISLAND

THE tournament the week after a Major championship inevitably throws up players who have run into form a few days later than they would have wished. For example, what would Vijay Singh have given for the 63 he had in a pro-am last Wednesday to replace the 82 with which he finished in the Masters last Sunday?

Colin Montgomerie is another case in point. Having started the MCI Classic here with a comfortable 69, he added a 66 to it yesterday, playing as well as he knows he can. His form now is in marked contrast to the 75 he had in his third and fourth rounds at Augusta.

Montgomerie's dip in form in the first Major championship of the year is all the more puzzling because he had been playing so well before the Masters and is clearly playing just as well now. He came second in the The Players' Championship at Jacksonville last month and now, at seven under par, is just one stroke behind Jeff Sluman and Tom Watson, the leaders here after 36 holes.

Montgomerie's elusive first victory in the United States cannot be long delayed and if there is one course on which

he would predict it would come, it is the Harbour Town Links. "This course is as right for me as any," Montgomerie said. Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus designed it several decades ago to discover the game's best shot-makers, men who are straight from the tee and can move the ball from right to left, and left to right as well.

Dye designed a few bunkers with railway sleepers — what they call railroad ties over here — supporting the face and he and Nicklaus, intent upon devilry, gave the holes some of the smallest greens ever seen on a championship course.

If they wanted to identify the game's true champions, they succeeded. Previous winners include Nick Faldo, Hale Irwin, Watson, Johnny Miller, Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman and Payne Stewart. If you can tell a man by the books he reads, then you could surely tell a championship by its list of winners.

This event, then, would be a good one for Montgomerie to win, as he clearly could. He has already picked up \$221,000 since he arrived on these shores nearly a month ago and, though he is competing in his fourth successive event, he shows no particular signs of fatigue.

Spurred on by the support of his father, who has walked every step of the two rounds so far, Montgomerie seems to have reacquired himself with the putter that completely lost its effectiveness on the hard and fast greens of the Augusta National club.

"I have only dropped two shots in two days so that is good," Montgomerie, who returns home on Monday, said. "I am playing well and I'm looking forward to the weekend. The difference between this week and last has been my putting. Last week I couldn't hole them, this week I can."

Wearing a shirt so red it might have been Welsh, Montgomerie made his way around the par-71 course with hardly a hint of difficulty. There was less wind than the previous day and less sun, too. He was one of the first players to start and so the greens had not become spiked up. This undoubtedly contributed to his better putting.

Montgomerie holed from 20 feet on the 1st, chipped close on the 2nd, reached the green of the long 5th in two and hit a five-iron from 194 yards to within three feet at the 8th. There had been no hint of a mistake so far and when one came, he got it over and done with quickly. On the 10th, his second shot clipped a branch of a tree and fell back and he dropped a stroke.

He quickly got back to playing near faultless golf, hitting a wedge to within eight feet and holing the putt on the 13th and then cleverly sinking a downhill 15-footer on the 17th green.

As the ball began rolling slowly towards the hole, several spectators shouted: "It's in, it's in." Eventually, it dropped, for his sixth birdie of the day. Montgomerie was desperately close with a 20-foot putt on the last, too.

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Accuracy of hi-tech tools of war cannot be guaranteed

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Israeli bombardment of the United Nations refugee camp near Tyre has highlighted the huge risks of using unguided heavy firepower to hit small targets close to civilian communities.

The fear of "collateral damage" was one of the guiding principles which helped focus the American-led coalition when it launched massive air raids on Iraqi targets during the 1991 Gulf War. Hezbollah units launching Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds into northern Israel do not face the same restrictions. Their shells are fired indiscriminately at Israeli communities and there is no concern about accuracy.

Israel has far more sophisticated equipment with which to target Hezbollah gunners, yet the artillery deployed on the Lebanese border, American 155mm M109A2s, can never achieve pinpoint accuracy without target acquisition guidance from a forward observer providing a grid reference. It is unlikely that the Israelis had anyone so far forward. They also use remotely-piloted air vehicles, or drones, to provide target surveillance, but the Israelis do not have models that give instantly transmitted photographs.

Shelling accuracy, therefore, relies on weapon locating radar which can help to pin-

WEAPONS

point the launch spot of Hezbollah rockets. Under this system, however, a 155mm shell can still land within a range of about 300 yards of the target. Hezbollah admitted that it had a gunner unit close to the UN camp.

Artillery shells land in an area called "mean point impact", which allows for a degree of inaccuracy, about 300 yards deep, and 50-70 yards wide. However, even

though this is relatively accurate for a high explosive shell fired from up to 11 miles away, weather and atmospheric conditions can produce wide variations.

Hezbollah is firing both 82mm mortars and Katyusha rockets against Israel. However, instead of the more visible multi-barrelled Katyusha system which have to be transported by lorry — the type used by the Palestine Liberation Organisation against northern Israel during the 1970s and early 1980s, and also

by the Serbs against Zagreb, the Croatian capital — Hezbollah is deploying portable, single-launcher Katyusha rockets fired from tripods.

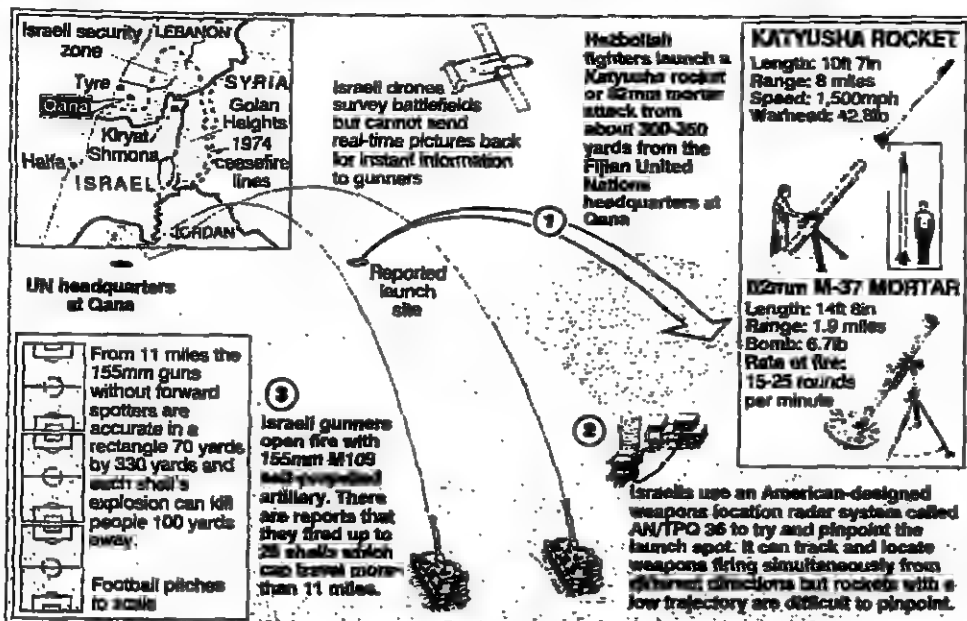
Once fired, the launcher can be packed up quickly and removed from the area. This version of the Katyusha, which is based on the former Soviet 122mm BM21 rocket, can also be fired with a timing device. This would explain why the Israeli military, despite special artillery-locating equipment, have had such

difficulty in destroying the Hezbollah launchers. The Israelis are equipped with the Hughes-designed American AN/TPQ 36 Firefinder radar system, which electronically scans the horizon over a 90 degree sector several times a second, intercepting and automatically tracking incoming rockets or shells. It then uses the trajectory to calculate the launch site.

However, Christopher Foss, editor of *Janes Armour and Armaments*, said the Katyusha system, which is the generic name for all Russian unguided rockets, was so fast from launch to target that there was little time for the Israelis to guarantee tracking accuracy, even with AN/TPQ 36 radar.

Mortar rounds reach a high altitude before descending to the target, giving at least 20 to 30 seconds for the Israelis to locate the firing point. However, the trajectory of the Katyusha, which has a range of more than eight miles, has only a 50 degree elevation from the ground and travels at a maximum of more than 750 yards a second.

The M109A2 self-propelled howitzer used by the Israelis has a normal rate of fire of one round per minute but three rounds per minute can be fired for a limited period. The Israelis also have a M107 howitzer which has a special shell with a longer range.



Israeli gunners pray at their position on the northern border with Lebanon yesterday

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Cairo attack claims puzzle officials

FROM MARK HUBAND IN CAIRO

GREEK officials were yesterday analysing conflicting faxed statements apparently sent by Islamic fundamentalists after the killing of 17 Greek tourists and one Egyptian outside a Cairo hotel on Thursday.

The city has effectively been cordoned off from the rest of the country as security forces search for the gunmen. Police are believed to have made 12 arrests.

The faxes were from the radical Gamaa al-Islamiya group, according to the private Athens-based television company which received them.

The Egyptian Government is keen to reassure foreigners that the attack does not mark a resurgence of Islamist violence directed at tourists. If the killings are proven to be linked with Israel's attacks in south Lebanon, this would support the Government's position.

A first fax said the Islamic militants had carried

out the slaughter of mostly women pensioners at the Europa Hotel. But a second denied responsibility and said the Gamaa al-Islamiya was opposed to such violence.

A spokeswoman for the Greek Embassy in Cairo said the authenticity of the statements was still being examined. The faxes are the only clue so far received in response to the attack, the worst on foreign tourists since they first became targets in 1992. The last attack was five months ago, and Thursday's carnage was the first in Cairo for a year.

□ Athens: Grieving relatives gathered at the capital's main morgue to collect the bodies of the 17 Greek pilgrims killed in the Cairo attack. The Transport Ministry said extra charter flights were planned to bring back hundreds of Greek tourists wanting to cut short their visits to Egypt. Travel agencies estimate there are 5,000 Greek visitors in Egypt. (AP)

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Major extends a helping hand for Yeltsin campaign

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN MOSCOW

JOHN MAJOR last night gave tacit backing to President Yeltsin's re-election campaign after a blunt exchange of views with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner.

The Prime Minister had a 30-minute meeting with Mr Zyuganov, the candidate of a broad Left coalition, who leads in polls for what is emerging as a two-horse race in June. Mr Major then went on to meet President Yeltsin who was hosting the G7 summit on nuclear safety which opened with a state dinner here last night.

At a press briefing after the meetings, Mr Major indicated that Mr Zyuganov did not share Mr Yeltsin's reforming zeal. "He explained what he was about and what he sees as priorities in this country. But self-evidently he doesn't believe that those priorities should concern people elsewhere," Mr Major said. "I underlined to him the impor-

ance we attach to the reform programme."

Mr Zyuganov has made it clear that he intends to reverse many of the Russian reforms and would return several enterprises to the state sector.

Mr Major went as far as he could diplomatically to en-

Nuclear safety pact agreed

World leaders are scheduled today to discuss in detail plans to shut dangerous nuclear reactors and make others safer. In particular, the G7 nations have agreed with Ukraine to finance the decommissioning of the two reactors still operating at Chernobyl. Government heads are due to sign an agreement to boost intelligence co-operation and tighten security around fissile materials.

dorse Mr Yeltsin's candidacy. "It is not for anyone to determine who should be the President of Russia. That is a matter for the Russian people and it would be impertinent for me to state a preference," he said.

"But we do have a very strong view that the reform programme is very important and we wish to see the reform programme proceed and I think that is a view very widely held right across the world."

In an interview with the local newspaper *Argumenty i Fakty*, Mr Major said: "We have very good working relations with Mr Yeltsin. We have known him for a very long time and we very much admire what he's seeking to do."

"Of course personal relations impact when one knows people. We are prepared to assist, help and work with whomsoever is going to ad-



John Major and President Yeltsin in the Kremlin after a reception for G7 leaders who are meeting to discuss nuclear safety

vance the reform process and that is a matter of greatest importance."

Mr Major underlined this message by announcing a £50 million allocation from Britain's Know How fund set up to help Eastern countries with economic reform. His tacit endorsement will delight Mr

Yeltsin, who is hoping that the Moscow summit will give a big boost to his election campaign.

At their bilateral meeting, Mr Major also reassured Mr Yeltsin that Nato enlargement would proceed cautiously and slowly. The Russian people feel threatened by the pro-

posed expansion of Nato and have challenged Mr Yeltsin over the issue.

Yesterday Mr Major said that Nato wanted good and close relations with Russia. "I don't think there is any threatening aspect at all about Nato expansion, nor is there any great hurry about it. I think

people are raising concerns that are unreal." Mr Major also told Mr Yeltsin of concern in the West about reports that the violation of human rights in Chechnya was increasing. British officials said the Prime Minister had impressed upon Mr Yeltsin that the violence had to end.

Grachev ready to quit over ambush

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PAVEL GRACHEV, the Russian Defence Minister, offered to resign yesterday after a national outcry erupted over the death of scores of Russian servicemen in an ambush by Chechen separatists.

In a surprise announcement before the Duma, the lower house of parliament, General Grachev, the hawkish mastermind of the disastrous Chechnya campaign, admitted that 53 Russian troops were killed and 52 wounded when their poorly defended convoy came under attack on Tuesday.

"I am ready to resign if deputies consider that I am to blame," the general said. He added that the commander of the infantry regiment, whose men sustained the casualties, had been relieved of his duties.

Although the Duma does not have the power to dismiss the Defence Minister, President Yeltsin does. "The military leadership is to blame and will be held responsible for what has happened," declared the Russian leader between meetings with visiting heads of government of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said he told Mr Yeltsin that Russia and the world was waiting for the fighting to end. "He really affirmed that he will do what he can to stop the conflict," Herr Kohl said. "Yeltsin knows his re-election depends on whether or not the fighting stops."

General Grachev did little to endear himself to Mr Yeltsin when he criticised the President's peace initiative launched three weeks ago, which aims at securing a ceasefire and pulling out Russian troops by the end of the year.

"I am not against the peace plan but so far it allows the fighters to concentrate their forces. We should not forget that they are bandits and they should be destroyed," General Grachev told the deputies. "I regret that I have not been able to finish off the rebels."



Grachev: criticised Yeltsin's peace plan

Warning of world water shortage

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE world is running out of fresh water, with more than a fifth of the population facing drought by the middle of the next century, a United Nations-backed report says.

Booming populations, the growth of cities and industries in the developing world, pollution and the demand for food and irrigation schemes mean a minimum of more than 40 countries will have insufficient water supplies, affecting as many as 2.43 billion people.

But the *World Resources* report, published yesterday, gives a warning that the number under threat could be even higher with regional shortages and droughts also likely in countries with more bountiful water resources.

Funded by the UN's development and environment programmes, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, it claims the key to heading off the crisis is to reduce pollution of underground resources and to use water in agriculture more efficiently.

World Resources: A Guide to the Global Environment 1996-97, Oxford University Press.

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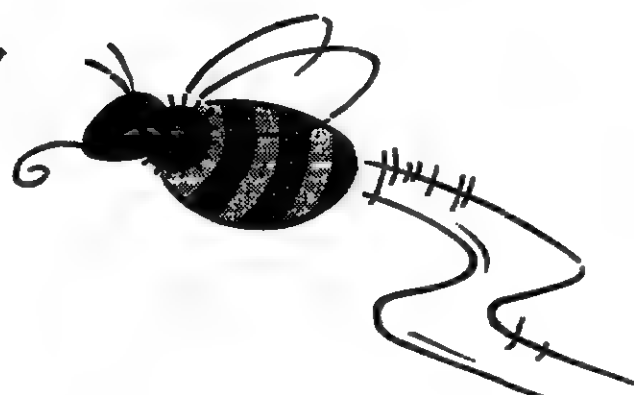
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Scourge of Britain's beef herd takes stock

IN BRITAIN'S troubled relations with its European partners, popular wrath has focused on a long procession of continental villains. Sometimes the dastardly Eurocrat is a natural for tabloid caricature, as was the case with Jacques Delors, the French former President of the Commission and irascible philosopher-king of Maastricht fame.

It is harder to make a bogyman out of Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner and latest *haut fonctionnaire* to attract British ire. "That awful man in a beard," seems to be the worst that British papers could hurl at the beef-eating Austrian whose alimentary intentions sparked indignation this week.

The burly, amiable-mannered Herr Fischler, 49, is a newcomer,

BRUSSELS FILE
by CHARLES BREMNER



animal transport, veal crates and food quality. His resistance to allowing imports of hormone-raised beef has annoyed Britain, but been welcomed across the Continent. At the same time, he has calmed the anguish of the French over letting rivals from the old Communist bloc share the bounty of the CAP when they join the Union.

The son of a Tyrolean farmer, Herr Fischler earned a doctorate in agriculture before entering politics in 1990 as a Christian Democrat MP. One of his shrewd moves as a man with little foreign experience was to surround himself with one of the most international teams in the Commission. A private man, his only visible concession to frivolity is a fondness for garish ties featuring farm animals. He spends weekdays alone in a modest Brussels flat. He eschews the usual limousines and walks to the Commission to start work at 7am, putting in longer days than most. At weekends he returns to his small farm in the Tyrolean village of Absam to be with his wife, Heidi, and four children.

It was his decision to go to the Tyrol on the first weekend of the beef crisis that led to the public relations stumble. Landing back in Brussels after the emergency



Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, inspects a cow in his home village of Absam

veterinary meeting was nearly over, he made a premature announcement of the beef ban, promising to put a "ring fence" around Britain, a remark from which he later retreated. His anger over the failure of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to warn him of the Commons announcement on Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease got the better of his usual calm.

When a British reporter turned up on his doorstep in Absam last Sunday, his instinct for plain-

speaking led him to the remark that he would eat British beef because there was nothing medically wrong with it.

Herr Fischler is appalled at being painted as the agent of an anti-British campaign. London, he believes, created the crisis by announcing a possible link between mad cows and CJD, and he is only trying to deal with a threat to the whole European industry. "He feels badly about Hogg not warning him," a colleague said. "If

there had been a bit of warning, maybe the whole thing could have been managed better."

While the affair has cast Herr Fischler as the scourge of John Bull's beef, his management of the crisis is well rated at the Commission. In Vienna he is being cited as a potential candidate for the chancellorship or the presidency. He is doing little to discourage such talk, but many a trap still lies ahead as he performs one of Europe's most thankless tasks.

Working for family values

FANCY a job in the well-paid ranks of the Eurocracy? Normally there is an army of applicants in fierce competitive exams, but not for the Committee of the Regions, the youngest of EU institutions.

Here, the mere tug of a string by a well-placed contact can do the trick. Since the Maastricht treaty brought it into existence two years ago to bring Europe closer to its citizens, this council of 222 local politicians has earned a reputation for alleged nepotism.

The committee, whose ranks embrace German regional bosses and humble British councillors, was supposed to have mended its ways after an inquiry and the appointment last month of Pasqual Maragall, the Socialist Mayor of Barcelona, as its president.

However, old habits persist, according to the staff unions, which resorted this week to a 100-person sit-in. The spat was the induction of 20 new civil servants to £35,000-a-year jobs on the basis of brief interviews.

"This type of political corruption is unprecedented," said Frank Patterson, vice-president of the Union Syndicale, the Eurocrats' main staff union. "They just walked in and had a chat and walked out as European officials."

Half of the committee's 80 permanent civil servants, including a bevy of Britons, are relatives or friends of insiders, says the union. It has issued Señor Maragall with a warning of further action.

Connoisseur choc horror

PATRIOTIC Belgians are fuming over a largely unsung British victory this week. The Commission's decision to give EU-wide approval to British-style chocolate, which usually contains vegetable fat, was too much to swallow for the country that prides itself on the world headquarters of fine chocolate. The official blessing for the "ersatz" stuff, cheaper to make

and banned from production in half the EU states, amounts to sacrilege, said Le Solr, the main Brussels paper. According to Jacques Mercier, a full-time "chocolate writer", Belgians must resist any temptation to make or eat the adulterated stuff. The decision, he said, showed "the reign of money over everything else, over the quality of life and good taste".

Nastase courts votes in mayoral contest

FROM REUTER IN BUCHAREST

ILIE NASTASE, the Romanian former tennis star, launched his campaign to be Mayor of Bucharest yesterday with the backing of Nadia Comaneci, the former communist country's other sporting idol.

"I wish you every success from a sportsman to a sportsman," Miss Comaneci told Mr Nastase after a kiss for the cameras.

"He built a name, he rebuilds a city," proclaimed his campaign slogan on banners over one of Bucharest's most elegant mansions.

On a wall outside, carefully written graffiti (Ilie Primar (Ilie for Mayor) suggested his campaign managers were also

going for the common touch. Outside the hall, politicians and journalists scrambled for pens and lighters bearing his name.

In a country short on glamour and contemporary heroes, the combination of Mr Nastase, 49, the former French Open champion, and Miss Comaneci, makes a powerful image for the ruling Party of Social Democracy, which faces municipal and national elections this year.

President Iliescu is hosting a reception for Miss Comaneci's gala wedding to a fellow Olympic gymnast, American Bart Conner, next week. The leader of the ruling party will be the bride's godfather.



Régine: accused of intimidation on plane

French fume over club queen arrest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

RÉGINE, the veteran Paris nightclub owner, singer and socialite who taught the Duke of Windsor the Twist, faced charges of assault and intimidation in a Boston court yesterday after she and her son got into an argument with airline staff over smoking.

Régine, 67, the self-styled "Queen of the Night" who once ran a string of nightclubs from Paris to London to Rio de Janeiro, was on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami when her son Lionel Rotgase, a former editor of the French edition of *Rolling Stone* magazine, lit up.

A steward asked Mr Rotgase, 47, to put out the cigarette or smoke at the back of the plane, but he declined, observing: "I don't give a

damn about the law." When the steward insisted, Mr Rotgase asked: "What are you going to do? Shoot me?" Threatened with legal action, he allegedly responded: "You do that and I'll shoot you down."

During the ensuing altercation, the chief steward was allegedly jostled and the captain announced an emergency landing to offload the fuming Mr Rotgase.

At this point the redoubtable Régine — her married name is Choukroun, but she prefers to be known by her real first name — followed the captain back to the cockpit, "making obscene declarations," an FBI report said. "You can't tell me what to do," she declared in the shrill tones she once used to quieten unruly night-club-

bers. "The last time someone told me what to do was when the Nazis invaded Paris."

On landing in Boston both mother and son were arrested by the FBI and charged with assault, intimidation and interfering with the flight crew.

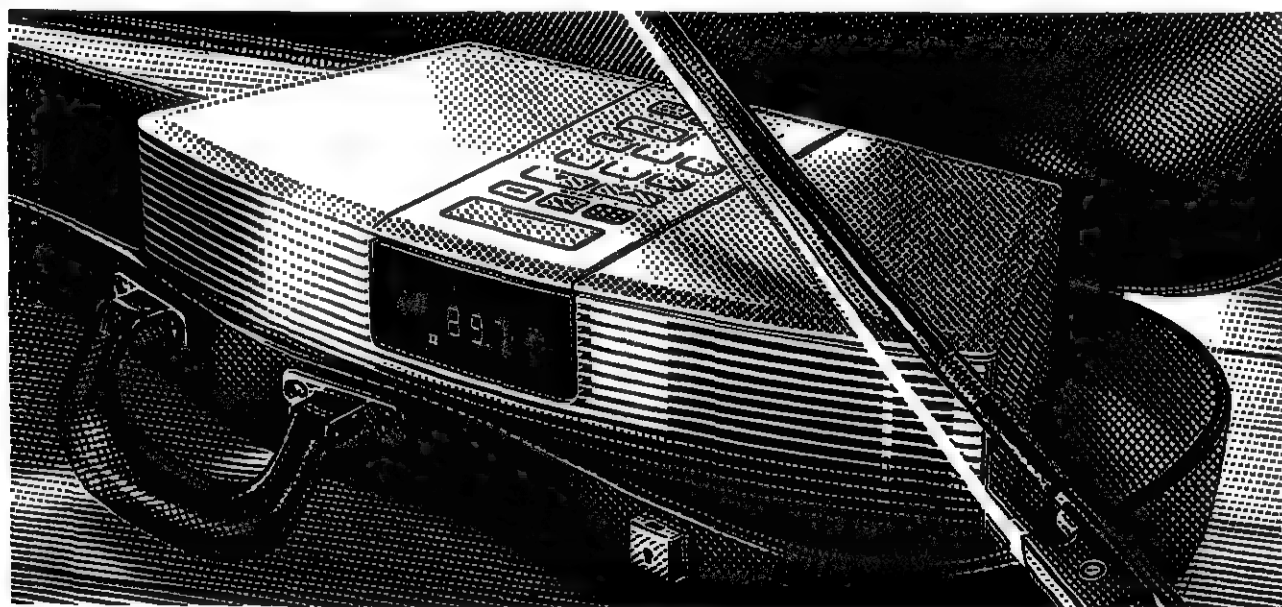
The woman still known in France as the "Queen of Hearts, clubs and diamonds" now has trouble in spades since she and her son each face up to 20 years in prison and fines of \$250,000 if convicted.

The incident has provoked outrage in France, where the colourful Régine, and smoking in forbidden places, are both enduringly popular. The newspaper *France-Soir* pointed out that the US "is a country where tobacco is on the way to being considered a

drug while arms are freely on sale". Even the usually sober *Le Monde* noted in a headline: "Régine and her son threatened with prison for the sake of a cigarette."

The Belgian-born Régine opened her first club in 1957 and built up a chain of 19 worldwide. Once she received a telephone call at 11pm from the secretary of the Duke of Windsor asking her to go to his Paris house and teach dinner-party guests how to do the Twist, the popular 1960s dance. In a canny marketing move, she insisted the royal party come to her club if they wanted a tutorial and, according to Régine, they did.

Régine and her son were released on Thursday after surrendering their passports.



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OPINION
Is the arts establishment awarding too many goodies to boost the prestige of the capital?



MUSICALS
All you need is love... and a magic piano: *Slade's Salad* returns to the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE
From top Canadian ballet to the best pop gigs: the pick of the shows are in Weekend, pages 14 and 15



ON MONDAY
Tony Harrison's new Victor Hugo adaptation, *The Prince's Play*: read Benedict Nightingale's view

Was it only last year that suave chaps from the Arts Council were assuring us that lottery money would not be "carved up" by the London-based arts establishment? Indeed it was — and their guarantee sounded so genuine, so heartfelt. All would benefit! From corner players in Lancashire to busy mezzos at Covent Garden, the lottery largesse would flow evenly! Milk and honey all round!

Well, it has flowed all right. But most of the lottery cash has flowed in one direction. To say that the lion's share has been swiped by London would be to slander the communal generosity of big cats. The fact is that London's artsgardens have demonstrated a greed for other people's money, and a genius for fingering it, that would leave many a smash-and-grab raider gaping in admiration. I try not to allow too many facts and figures to intrude upon my articles. I find them unhelpful to my arguments. But in this case I make an exception. Because lottery

London calling, but Britain paying

awards are announced in dribs and drabs, the cumulative scope of London's dominance is hard to grasp. So let's have a quick glance at the old scoreboard so far.

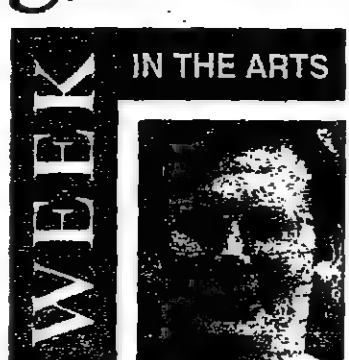
Covent Garden has been given £78 million, Sadler's Wells £30m, the Royal Court £16m, the National Theatre £32m and the Globe £12m. The British Museum has enjoyed two massive handouts: £30m and £5m. The National Maritime Museum has picked up a useful £12m, and a tolerable £50m has gone to the Tate's Bankside project. Kew Gardens gets £21m for a "seed bank" (they must shop at the same garden centre as we do); and Greenwich gets £200m for Millennium jollies.

Readers with a head for numbers will have totted up this little list and found a total not far short of half a billion pounds. That's just for ten major projects. I hesitate to

mention the £344,540 of lottery dosh awarded so that the Institute of Contemporary Arts can "examine its future role". Future role? You mean it had one in the past? Or the £114,536 that will let the Laban Dance Centre in Lewisham commission a "study to determine whether the Centre should redevelop its facilities". Gosh, how many consultants does it take to walk round a dance school?

And there's more lottery lolly coming London's way. Much, much more. The South Bank Centre has high hopes for its £127m bid — yes, that is the bid which was £45m a year ago. Inflation in the arts is an awesome sight, is it not? English National Opera is confident of extracting a few million to do up the Coliseum. Wembley Stadium is expecting a vast handout. And so on.

It all adds up to a monstrous



RICHARD MORRISON

bias in favour of London. A report last week pointed out that the lottery money awarded to London so far has been 700 times greater, per head of population, than that awarded to Bedfordshire. Not

surprising, really, since Bedfordshire has been given precisely 3p per person. I don't favour moving the Royal Opera House to Luton, although that would be a fascinating sociological experiment. But I can see why people in the regions might form the impression that the lottery has been stitched up by a gang of metropolitan cronies.

"Ah yes," the London apologists counter, "but London has to compete against Paris, Berlin, Vienna and other formidably endowed European capitals." True enough. But "second cities" must also compete internationally: Birmingham must keep up with Barcelona, Munich, Milan. So must third, fourth and fifth cities.

Ten years ago, the Arts Council seemed to acknowledge this, devolving subsidy and power to the regions, and fostering a great many centres of artistic excellence

outside London. Now, without public discussion or announcement, the policy has been reversed, and reversed in astonishingly blatant fashion. London gets two, or possibly three, lavishly refurbished lyric theatres; the excellent Welsh National Opera is refused even one proper home.

That's not good for the arts in Britain, and not good for London either. The impression in the capital is not one of carefully planned cultural growth, but of a wildly uncontrolled free-for-all in which overlapping schemes are allowed to chase after the same sources of private and corporate backing — and, in the long run, after the same limited audiences and subsidy. What you are seeing is not a drive to enrich London's artistic life, but a ruthless dash for cash that is then used

to fortify the most powerful cultural fiefdoms.

Meanwhile, where are the lottery-funded schemes — promised by the Prime Minister last year — that are supposed to initiate an "arts renaissance" in schools? Mysteriously, they are being formulated rather more slowly than London's megabuck projects. Nurturing the audiences and performers of tomorrow? Widening the desperately narrow social base that supports the arts? Not one of our priorities, old boy.

Ah well, let's finish on a defiantly regional note. What I want to know is: how are the people of Bedfordshire going to blow their 3p-per-head lottery handout this year? A magnum of inexpensive bubbly, perhaps, and a million straws? Or new shirts for Luton Town Football Club, with the promise of matching shorts to follow next season? Perhaps our readers in that part of the world would let Mrs Bottomley know. She does read her foreign mail, you know.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament TOM HOLLANDER

Profession: Actor
Age: 28
Appearance: Cherub gone to seed.
Forté: The comedy and charisma of villainy.
Nasty pieces of work: He was Macheath in Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*, casually organising crime in 21st-century Soho. Then Baby, the dangerously mixed-up mafia kid in *Mojo*.
And now? Tartuffe. Molère's 17th-century spiritual comar, at the Almeida.
On Tartuffe: "It's a brilliantly constructed play. I like playing frightening megalomaniacs. I'm so unbrightening in real life."
Flexible: Hollander transformed into a sweet, cheeky yet vulnerable Celia in Cheek By Jowl's all-male *As You Like It*. In Peter Gill's *Way of the World*, he stole the show with a bit part as the flamboyant twit, Witwoud.
Family: The Hollanders are not historically theatrical but have artistic genes: a Czech grandfather was a celebrated authority on Janáček in bohemian Vienna. His sister is Julia Hollander, the ENO's youngest woman director. At Cambridge, Hollander was a zesty Cyrano in Sam Mendes's Marlowe Society production and subsequently joined Mendes's company at Chichester.
The glories of Oxford: Hollander is soon to be seen as the cox in *True Blue*, Channel 4's Boat Race movie. "We spent hour after hour being rained on by huge hoses with a wind-chill factor of minus 35 degrees," he says. "It was like the retreat from Moscow, but all good fun."
On acting: "On stage, for a few hours, your life is formalised, no longer chaotic. That can be relaxing."
On himself: "I'm ambitious," he says, "but quite lazy. On stage I think 'This my chance to redeem a completely unimpressive existence.'"



KATE BASSETT

Class of '54 has aged beautifully

Now look, if you start sneering at this delightfully absurd but useful musical, saying things like "It's so middle-class," I shall cheerfully agree with that and point out how neatly the story spins the heads-I-win-tails-you-lose coin by both being and mocking its class. The mockery is gentle, but the original cast recording reveals that even in 1954 Jane spoke in a terribly, terribly pure voice, and Timothy was brightly, brightly shy and manly: "Oh, Jane, will it help if I marry you? Only if it will help." The irony is an essential spice, without which the show could not work.

The characters, of course, are not middle-class at all: Jane's mother is Lady Raeburn, and the roll-call of Timothy's five uncles includes a member of the Cabinet, although goodness knows what Uncle Ambrose, the camp courtier, is doing among them. Kit Hesketh-Harvey's grins and wandering hands belong in burlesque, and I'd be surprised to learn that the role was such a reach-me-down caricature first time round.

The dress salon scene is one of several revue sketches that fill in the gaps in the story of the magic piano. Timothy and Jane, just down from university, take on the job of looking after the "vehicular instrument" for a month. His family keeps sending him to meet the uncles, which cues in several of the sketches.

Certainly, this is a primitive structure for a show, and when scenes are not enlivened by a song the humour is exposed as equally antique. But these songs — catchy, clever and sweet-hearted — are irresistible. Julian Slade's melodies have that rare and blessed quality of proving themselves unforgettable after a single hearing. The lyrics too. In Jane's *I Sit in the Sun*, as in the duet *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*, the simply rhymed, colloquial

phrases fit the musical line so easily that words stay in the memory along with tune.

Simon Connolly catches the innocent charm of Timothy very fetchingly, but in Nicola Fulljames, playing Jane in a bright yellow New Look frock and long white gloves, Ned Sherrin's production has found a heroine capable of subtle touches of comedy and with a voice that is positively enchanting.

Hesketh-Harvey's other performances, mostly as uncles, are amusing, while his cabaret partner Richard Sisson (aka the Widow), reveals an attractive skill at not-too-winsome mime as the piano-playing clown, Troppo.

The revolving bandstand at the centre of Patrick Connellan's set solves the problem of bringing speed to the scene changes, but severely restricts the dancing area to the front of the stage. This is unfortunate in a show where outbursts of ungovernable dance are crucial to the story. I don't think we can even say that it jolks comments on the 1950s style, although, being in generous mood, that is how I propose to take the shadow thrown by the lamppost on the blue sky.



Richard Sisson, Nicola Fulljames, Simon Connolly — and magic piano — in the ever-enchanting *Salad Days*

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Stravinsky Apollo Music Prologue Violino Fugitive
Bach Cello Suite No 2

Sun 21 Apr 3.30pm
London Symphony Orchestra
Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano London Symphony Chorus
Brahms Concerto, Scherzo a la Russa, Scherzo de ballet,
Symphony of Psalms, Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand,
Daphnis and Chloe, Suite No 2

Mon 22 Apr 7.30pm
Budapest Festival Orchestra
Orchestra of the World
Ivan Fischer conductor, László Lantos a triolo
Mozart Symphony No 6 in A minor
C14, C14.50, C25, C30
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Thu 25 Apr 7.30pm
London Symphony Orchestra
Dimitris Flistas Conductor
3 Brahms concertos (1830 in programme with excerpts
from Piano and Violin Concertos, Tchaikovsky and
Prokofiev. Winner will be announced at the end of the
concert. C15-C19

Fri 26 Apr 7.30pm
Mostly Mozart
London Soloists Orchestra & Opera Ensemble
To benefit Friends of Great Ormond Street

Sun 28 Apr 7.30pm
London Symphony Orchestra
Michael Arnold 75th Birthday Concert
Richard Hickox conductor, John Lill piano
Arnold Chaconne, Tchaikovsky Four English Dances,
Fantasy on a theme of John Field, The Second Rhapsody,
Symphony No 5
C15-C19, 10.00, 10.50, 11.50, 12.50, 13.50, 14.50, 15.50, 16.50, 17.50, 18.50, 19.50, 20.50, 21.50, 22.50, 23.50, 24.50, 25.50, 26.50, 27.50, 28.50, 29.50, 30.50, 31.50, 32.50, 33.50, 34.50, 35.50, 36.50, 37.50, 38.50, 39.50, 40.50, 41.50, 42.50, 43.50, 44.50, 45.50, 46.50, 47.50, 48.50, 49.50, 50.50, 51.50, 52.50, 53.50, 54.50, 55.50, 56.50, 57.50, 58.50, 59.50, 60.50, 61.50, 62.50, 63.50, 64.50, 65.50, 66.50, 67.50, 68.50, 69.50, 70.50, 71.50, 72.50, 73.50, 74.50, 75.50, 76.50, 77.50, 78.50, 79.50, 80.50, 81.50, 82.50, 83.50, 84.50, 85.50, 86.50, 87.50, 88.50, 89.50, 90.50, 91.50, 92.50, 93.50, 94.50, 95.50, 96.50, 97.50, 98.50, 99.50, 100.50, 101.50, 102.50, 103.50, 104.50, 105.50, 106.50, 107.50, 108.50, 109.50, 110.50, 111.50, 112.50, 113.50, 114.50, 115.50, 116.50, 117.50, 118.50, 119.50, 120.50, 121.50, 122.50, 123.50, 124.50, 125.50, 126.50, 127.50, 128.50, 129.50, 130.50, 131.50, 132.50, 133.50, 134.50, 135.50, 136.50, 137.50, 138.50, 139.50, 140.50, 141.50, 142.50, 143.50, 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INTERVIEW
Stepping into Henry Fonda's shoes: Kevin Whately on the challenge of *Twelve Angry Men*



MUSIC
Peter Donohoe struggles with a poor piano to play fine Rachmaninov in Cheltenham

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTES
Tim Roth will make his debut as a director this year — filming *The War Zone* in Devon



BASE NOTES
... while Tom Waits wins a three-year court battle with his own music publishers

Daniel Rosenthal talks to Kevin Whately about his West End stage debut in *Twelve Angry Men*

A case of following Fonda

During his five-year absence from the stage, Kevin Whately has continued to experience what he calls "mind-boggling" small-screen popularity. As family-adoring Sergeant Lewis in *Inspector Morse*, fiery Dr Jack Kerruish in *Peak Practice*, and native carpenter Neville Hope in the recent Channel 4 reruns of *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Whately has rarely been away from the nation's living rooms for long. Plum parts in three of the most successful television series of the past two decades — not a bad record for a man who graduated from London's Central School of Speech and Drama convinced he "would never be anything other than a stage actor".

The return to theatre — and his West End debut — comes in Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*. Whately plays the liberal architect who, on a baking hot day in New York in 1954, sets out to persuade 11 fellow jurors that despite apparently conclusive evidence, a 16-year-old boy accused of murdering his brutal father may not be guilty.

The offer to join Harold Pinter's production was irresistible. "I couldn't turn down a chance to work with a living legend," Whately says.

"*Twelve Angry Men* also appealed because it's an ensemble piece, not a star vehicle." He describes the company, which includes Timothy West and Tim Healy (the builders' leader in *Auf Wiedersehen*), as "a good bunch of clever actors, with no flashy egos".

Rose's enthralling play was written soon after he served as a juror on a manslaughter trial (the defendant was convicted of a lesser charge) and has enjoyed enduring fame through the Oscar-nominated film version, which had Henry Fonda as the architect and was the first of director Sidney Lumet's numerous cinematic explorations of crime and punishment in New York.

"Don't mention the film" became the Basil Fawcett-like rehearsal motto for Pinter's dozen, but Whately "sneaked another look" when Fonda and company popped up on television shortly before the production began a month-long run at the Bristol Old Vic.

"It's a great film," he says. "But while the camera's always going in close on Fonda, on stage you get to see all the jurors' reactions at once, which is much more interesting. There's also more humour in our version."

"The accused boy is obviously from an ethnic minority,



Liberal conscience: Kevin Whately plays the Henry Fonda role in Harold Pinter's production of *Twelve Angry Men*

probably black or Puerto Rican, but the speeches by the most racist juror were heavily cut in the film. We haven't cut them because it's important that the audience sees the race issue clearly."

Those who know Whately only through television may be surprised by his theatrical pedigree. Born in the North Tyne Valley, the son of a merchant seaman, he abandoned accountancy training in Newcastle to pursue the acting bug which first struck at the age of four with family plays directed by his elder sister. Drama school was followed by several years in rep, and his CV includes John Proctor in *The Crucible* (twice), Prince Hal, Billy Liar and, most recently, a National Front agent provocateur at the Bush.

After playing a lorry driver in *Coronation Street* for six weeks, his television break-

through came in 1983 thanks to *Auf Wiedersehen*. Dick Clement's and Ian La Frenais's glorious tales of British builders on the make in Germany and Spain, with Whately as the shyest member of an occasionally wild bunch.

Next came the *Inspector Morse* phenomenon: 29 films in eight years, hundreds of millions of viewers in more than 50 countries. The golden hat-trick, which Whately attributes largely to top-class writing, was completed in 1993, when 14 million watched GP Dr Jack Kerruish saving lives in the first of his three series of *Peak Practice*.

Adjusting to the fame that accompanies such huge audiences was traumatic and Whately still finds life as "a really face" strange. "I can't conceive of a million people watching me, never mind hundreds of millions. The

younger actors in *Twelve Angry Men* see what that popularity is like when people approach me for autographs. I was in their position before I got into television. When I was on tour with Stephen Hancock, who was Ernie Bishop in *Coronation Street* for years, he was mobbed everywhere.

"I find television work less rewarding than theatre, but it has its own excitement and is obviously much more lucrative. I've done so much of it because with young kids [Kitty, now 13, and Kieran, 11], I couldn't afford to keep doing rep for £180 a week."

Whately's presence in so much repeat-friendly drama means that even when, as now, he is taking a break from television, television appears unwilling to take a break from him. "As I walked into the green room for the interval on *Twelve Angry Men*'s first Sat-

No hiding place from an ill wind

CONCERT
Rhineland PO/Klee Cheltenham

WHEN a German orchestra tours this country and devotes the first half of every concert on the itinerary to Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, you wonder what it has to hide. Surely an ensemble as venerable as the Rhineland Philharmonic, which has worked with conductors as distinguished as Wilhelm Furtwängler and Richard Strauss, should be presenting its credentials, asserting its personality and generally displaying its virtuosity by opening its concerts with Don Juan, say, or *Till Eulenspiegel*. Or would that have been too outrageously bold to contemplate?

It is true that Peter Donohoe playing Rachmaninov is always an attractive prospect — which was presumably a major consideration in the thinking which consigned Bernhard Klee and the Rhineland Philharmonic to the role of accompanying a British pianist for the greater part of ten programmes in ten British concert halls. They could not have known that at Cheltenham Town Hall, the first stop on the tour, the piano would be in such a condition that much of the performance of Rachmaninov's D minor Concerto would be an ear-bruising experience. The integrity of

Donohoe's interpretation, his characteristically wholehearted devotion to the emotional issues and his splendid declaration of authority at the climax of the last movement will surely meet fewer obstacles later in the tour.

As for what the orchestra might have to hide, a woodwind section such as that of the Rhineland Philharmonic cannot be concealed for very long, even in a Rachmaninov Piano Concerto. After the first-movement cadenza, for example, each of the flute, oboe and clarinet entries seemed to be based on a different assessment of standard pitch. By the end of the first movement of Brahms's First Symphony, intonation was so bad that the woodwinds were requested to retune — not in the first place by the conductor but, through him, by a leader who was obviously not very happy about the situation.

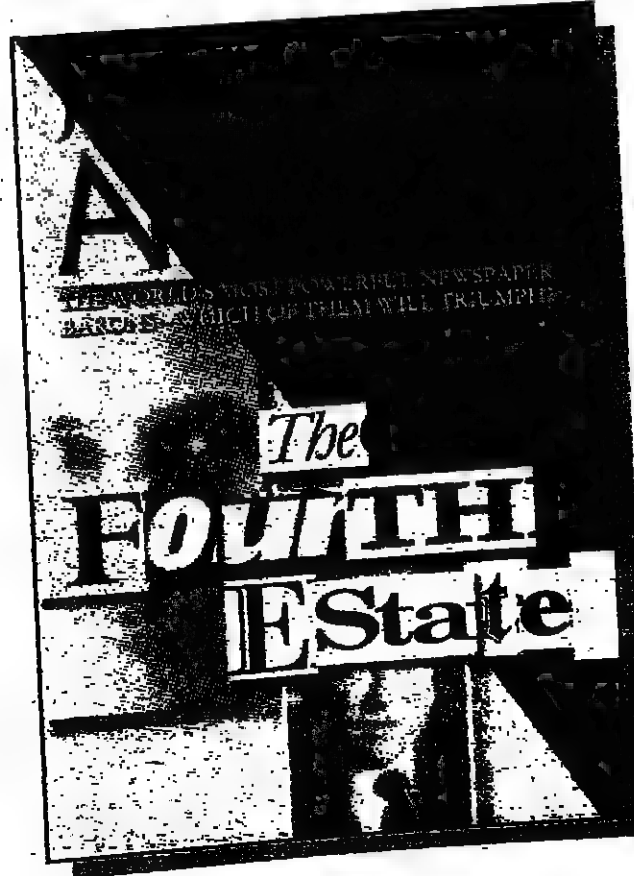
Klee clearly prefers to concentrate on his strings. His reward is a string sound which is robust but, in its imperfect ensemble, unrestrained. As we know from his association with the BBC Philharmonic not very long ago, he is a musician with more to offer.

GERALD LARNER

THE SUNDAY TIMES

JEFFREY ARCHER

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BASE NOTES

TWO of Britain's top composers have been commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra to write cello concertos for Mstislav Rostropovich. The world premiere of Colin Matthews's new concerto will take place at the Barbican on September 17; two weeks later, on October 3, the cellist is scheduled to perform the world premiere of James MacMillan's new concerto, "composed with the enormous musical and technical strengths of Mstislav Rostropovich in mind".

● Tom Waits, who sued his music publishers for allowing the song *Heart Attack & Vine* to be used in a TV commercial for Levi's, has had the decision in his favour upheld by the Californian Court of Appeal. The decision ends three years of litigation, and follows a \$2.5 million settlement to the singer-songwriter made after a corn chips manufacturer used a Waits impersonator to promote its product.

● THE actor Tim Roth is to make his directorial debut this year, filming *Alexander Szwarc's* much-praised novel about an incestuous father-daughter relationship, *The War Zone*. Filming will take place in Devon, but casting details have yet to be released.

● ONE of cinema's foremost historians and critics, David Robinson, has been honoured at the San Francisco International Film Festival. Robinson, veteran film critic of *The Times* and author of many books (including ones about Buster Keaton, Richard Attenborough, George Méliès and Charlie Chaplin), is named as recipient of the Mel Novikoff Award, which honours an individual or institution whose work has enhanced the public's knowledge of film.

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Niall Ferguson shows how, since 1989, history has been going backwards towards the ancien régime, as modernity unravels

The ghosts of the past return

The eminent German historian and strategic analyst, Michael Stürmer, speaking off-the-cuff at a small dinner party the other day given for him by Lord Weidenfeld, said: "1989 was a turning point at which history failed to turn."

It may have been the quality of the wine being served, but that phrase — an updating of A.J.P. Taylor's famous one-liner about 1848 — threw a switch in the mind of one of the guests. Not so, I found myself thinking. 1989 was a turning point, all right. The trouble is that history turned 180 degrees — and ever since it has been running backwards.

The idea of history in reverse may seem bizarre — the stuff of science fiction. Yet the more I think about it, the more useful it seems as an insight into the nature of most, if not all, of our present tribulations. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, those who make a living from analysing the immediate past and foretelling the future — the Francis Fukuyamas and Paul Kennedys of this world — have been struggling. Now I think I see why. In trying to look ahead

for trends, they are facing the wrong way.

In fact, the secret of the future lies behind us; and to see where we are heading, all you have to do is press rewind. But remember: history moves backwards a great deal faster than it moved forward.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the historic achievements of not only the 20th century but also the 19th (and in some cases even the 18th) have been unravelling with extraordinary rapidity. For example: probably the most important political products of the modern era were the nation states. In fact, few of them were as homogeneous, ethnically or culturally, as their propagandists liked to claim; and a great many held on to or acquired large empires, the existence of which was at variance with the principle of self-determination. Nevertheless, beginning circa 1650, they emerged, one by one, out of the mish-mash of

dynastic pseudo-empires and petty principalities: first Britain, Russia and France, then the United States, followed in the 19th century by Greece, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Romania and Bulgaria, and in the 20th (after immense bloodshed) Ireland, Poland, Yugoslavia and the rest.

1989 appeared to be the culmination of this process: the reunification of Germany and the creation of nation states for the hitherto vassal peoples of Eastern Europe. In reality, it has proved to be the end of the nationalist road, and the nation states have been dissolving with amazing speed ever since. Yugoslavia was the first and most horrendous case; Czechoslovakia went more quietly. At the same time, the Franco-German project to create a European federation has led to a creeping dissolution of the West European states, beginning in Italy (now almost "united"). As a result, the end-

product of Maastricht seems likely to look more like the Holy Roman Empire than the *Bundesrepublik Europa* of Helmut Kohl's dreams. What is more — though it is not generally realised — this process of disintegration is already accelerating in Belgium, in Spain and, of course, in Britain.

For under the impending Labour government, history looks like being reversed on a grand scale, with the effective repeal of the 1707 Act of Union and the restoration of the Edinburgh Parliament, as well (it seems reasonable to suppose) as the continuing surreptitious transfer of Ulster to the Dublin Republic. This effectively means the demolition of the entire Hanoverian edifice we know as Great Britain. See what I mean?

Nor is this purely a European phenomenon. While Russia recedes to the borders of Muscovy (for the second time this century, incidentally), more and more vot-

ers of the other ex-superpower seem intent on dismantling the great central government in Washington which sprang up after 1914. The achievements of the Big Government Presidents — Roosevelt, Kennedy, Johnson — seem doomed to be undone as the agenda of American politics is increasingly set by a populist movement such as has not been seen since the 1890s. At the same time, Canada teeters on the brink of Quebec's secession.

Meanwhile, a great but closed empire dominates the Far East — though the possibility cannot be ruled out that when Emperor Deng dies, the empire may break up, so uneven has been the recent process of economic development. And in North Africa and the Middle East, a reviving Islam is undermining the system of nation states constructed in the ruins of

the Ottoman Empire between the 1820s and the 1920s. (For this reason, Israeli neurosis about the future is not irrational. Though modernity has conferred both blessings and curses on the Jews, the prospect of a return to the 18th century is hardly an enticing one.)

All this means good business for the people who draw and publish maps, you may say, but how does it affect Middle England? Surely we, with our satellite dishes, are destined for more of the same in the 21st century?

Wrong. For the reality is that even our apparently ultra-modern society is well on the way back to the 18th century. When that war-time behemoth, the welfare state, finally collapses under its own weight, a distinctly ancient régime society will stand revealed — from the aristocratic to underclass. The only difference is that today, in the absence of capital punishment and transportation the State lacks the

means of disciplining them. As for our politics, there is no mistaking the 18th-century quality of new Labour. Lord Irvine's Whigs, led in the Commons by his youthful junior Mr Blair, are now poised to oust Lord Mackay's demoralised Tory ministry and then continue its policies, whatever those may be. On the quangos which run the country, Tory placemen will be replaced by Whig placemen. Meanwhile, the Royal Family falls further and further into disrepute — though instead of the *Madness of King George III* we must look forward, I fear, to the madness of Charles III.

In Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*, the central character dies at the beginning of the novel, and is born at the end. Something similar appears to have been happening to history. As Professor Stürmer was quick to point out, this is bad news for Germany. But, on reflection, I think it may be rather good news for England. After all, what is national decline when it is played backwards?

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

Don't dwarf the capital

The giant Ferris wheel is a PR stunt, says Giles Worsley

British Airways did not become the World's Favourite Airline without a certain ingenuity, but nothing could beat the subtle way in which it has suggested building the world's largest corporate advertisement in the very heart of London. Five hundred feet high, towering over Big Ben, taller than St Paul's Cathedral, the British Airways Millennium Wheel proposed for the South Bank is portrayed as an altruistic millennium gesture. But, if built, it will undoubtedly be the symbol of London in 2000, when we will not be allowed to forget that it was British Airways that gave it to us.

The airline has moved smoothly in to support a scheme floated last year by the architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. At the time it was roundly condemned by the Royal Fine Art Commission for its visual intrusion on London's skyline. But, supported by the airline for a fraction of the cost of one new plane, it has now returned. What makes BA's scheme so ingenious, as its chief executive Bob Ayling acknowledged, is that while the firm is putting up £600,000 of start-up capital towards a total cost of £9.5 million, the expected two million visitors a year — at £5 a head for adults and half price for children — should soon recoup the costs. The largest corporate advertisement in the world, symbol of London for the millennium, and possibly free — no wonder BA is so keen on the concept.

The idea of a giant Ferris wheel is harmless and entertaining in itself, although quite why a Ferris wheel should be seen as a futuristic statement is unclear. It is exactly 100 years since the death of the wheel's inventor, the American G.W.G. Ferris. If anything, it suggests the slightly tawdry, run-down Europe of post-war Vienna in Orson Welles's film *The Third Man*. But such a wheel would only be harmless and entertaining in the right place. That place is not the centre of London.

Little more than Modernist nostalgia lies behind the belief that the South Bank is an appropriate site. This was the home of the 1951 Festival of Britain, that last moment of Modernist innocence, before

the harsh realities of post-war development destroyed the illusion that a planner's Utopia was possible. But the South Bank has moved on.

This is not to say that something could not be done to make London more attractive to children, and this is perhaps the best argument for building a Ferris wheel. But the place for giant funfairs is on the outskirts of London. If we want children to find London more exciting, we should make what we have more attractive. The young are attracted by more than funfairs — an interactive science park and more children's concerts, for instance, would suit the South Bank better.

Lambeth council is unlikely to look dispassionately on the scheme, but this is an issue that stretches far beyond its boundaries. For all the talk of delicate materials, this is a massive structure which will have a crushing effect on Whitehall and the Royal Parks and a profound and unexpected impact much further away. Should Lambeth grant planning permission, it should certainly be called in by the Secretary of State for the Environment, even if the wheel is only intended to stand for five years. And that is a statement that must be treated with caution. History suggests that inertia has a strange way of ensuring that temporary buildings never come down.

If BA is sincere in its altruistic desire to help regenerate a run-down area, it should put its wheel where it would really make a difference. Cardiff Docks, where it could give stunning views across the Severn to England and northward to the Welsh Mountains, is an obvious choice. There the visitors and attention the wheel would draw could have a dramatic effect on an area struggling to revitalise itself. An obvious alternative is the Greenwich Peninsula. Intended home of the Millennium Festival, to which the wheel would make a superb focus. But, torn from its prime position in the heart of London, this 300ft-high advertisement might not have quite the same attraction to BA's publicity team.

The author is editor of Perspectives on Architecture.

When a referee can be sued, it is a sad day for rugby — and for liberty

My raggle-taggle army is in retreat. We stumble blind across the battlefield, beaten at every turn. Yesterday the High Court dealt us another blow and left us reeling. We are the army of Most Reasonable People. We cut a sorry sight.

Most reasonable people will have been left gasping by yesterday's decision by Mr Justice Curtis in the case of the rugby referee. An honest man giving up an afternoon to help boys to enjoy their sport is found guilty of culpable negligence for not stopping a scrum collapsing. He is now liable for £1 million in damages. Most reasonable people will throw up their hands in despair. Yet most reasonable people are not a consideration here. The law has found its way into one more area of community life. Yet another activity must surround itself with defensive insurance, legal advice and expense. Yet another band of selfless volunteers will say "to hell with it" and stay at home.

At the bottom of my drawer is a folder marked Legal Lunacies. It is bulging with material. A parent sues a theatre because *Peter Pan* scared her child. A policeman sues for a blister caused while using a CS gas can. Two women sue their boss for telling sexist jokes in his annual speech. A dancer sues a floor polisher for making the ballroom too slippery. An armed robber sues for pain and distress involved in his arrest. Seventy pupils sue their school because they did not do better in exams.

The British are now suing with the same abandon as Americans. My transatlantic collection includes people suing for sliced golf shots, for fallen buttocks, for over-hot McDonald's coffee, for the shock of seeing Mickey Mouse in daytime clothes and for not finding salvation in a Baptist church. The Western bourgeoisie no longer sues merely for financial loss. It sues for trauma, distress, embarrassment. It sues to be made happy or for a million pounds. As for accidents, they no longer exist. The world has given up on Acts of God. The Almighty no longer moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. One wrong move and He goes down for culpable negligence.

To lawyers, I am sure that yesterday's judgement in the case of the injured rugby player will seem a fine one. If we play a game under rules intended to protect our safety and submit to the decisions of a referee, we expect him to do the job. If we break our necks because, in our view, he failed to blow the whistle in time,



Rugby is an unpredictable and sometimes violent game — should players who risk life and limb be able to sue referees for damages?

we are entitled to complain. In 1991, 17-year-old Ben Smolton broke his neck playing for Sutton Coldfield Colts. He maintains that the dangerous practice of players collapsing the scrum had got of hand. The referee, Michael Nolan, should have stopped it sooner than he did.

Most reasonable people would react by feeling deeply sorry for Mr Smolton. Like hundreds of victims of this exhilarating but absurdly violent game, he is confined to a wheelchair. The Twickenham touchline at big matches has a phalanx of wheelchairs, none of whose occupants has ever sued the game they love (and who must now be cursing their solicitors). Perhaps the Staffordshire referee might have blown his whistle a second earlier. Perhaps a complaint might have been made to the Society of Rugby Football Referees. Perhaps Mr Nolan should not be allowed to referee any more games, or at least should undergo retraining. But a law suit? A High Court judgement? A million pounds demanded?

The dwindling band of reasonable people might also wonder why Mr Smolton's parents did not take out injury insurance, given the known risks of rugby. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, this is by far the most dangerous sport for serious injury. (Next come skating, riding and skiing.) Put your son in the front row

of a Staffordshire scrum and you have an accident waiting to happen. If money was going to be so important to Mr Smolton in the event of injury, cover would have been shrewd as well as wise. Why take a gamble on an opponent's insurer not having a million pounds to spare, when you can insure for a million pounds yourself?

I find all this obscene. The courts have now thrown open their doors to players in any game to treat a referee's decision as vulnerable to judicial review. The Lord Chief Justice should be as outspoken with a judge who encourages such outrageous litigation as he is with the Home Secretary.

These suits should not just be thrown out of court, they should be binned on receipt. Like the current craze for judicial review of public administration, negligence litigation may have its roots in legitimate grievance, but it risks polluting public and private life. Such litigation does not make for better professional judgment, it merely makes for ultra-cautious judgment and escalating costs. Every doctor, architect, accountant, administrator, minister even, now sits enveloped in advice and fees. This in turn induces

their clients to see them as a soft touch should accident befall.

I accept that a principle of culpable negligence must be upheld if people are to be protected against risks they cannot reasonably predict. The civil courts must be available to hold purveyors of goods and services accountable, especially where the service is a professional one based on trust in another's judgment. We seek redress for professional errors not just because they are often catastrophic — a lost leg, a collapsed house, a bankrupt business — but to deter and protect others.

Yet there must be a boundary between such redress and dumping all responsibility for risk onto others, marked by the single word, trust. Time was when we accepted that a professional person sought to do his or her best. If something went wrong, pending the hearing of a disciplinary tribunal, we treated it as bad luck. Accidents happen even in the best-regulated professions. In games, the essence of sport is to treat injury as accident. If equipment or supervision is dangerous, that is the risk we take. Sometimes the luck runs against us. A common thread through my file

of lunacy is a yearning to deny bad luck. People long to find a reason for their misfortune that can be pinned on somebody else. And always there is the excuse that nobody is really hurt by litigation because an insurer (or government) will pick up the tab.

Against this onward march of the suing classes, my shrinking platoon of reasonable men can only fall back on philosophy. They hold to their belief that accidents do happen, that life is full of perils. Some of these perils are caused by human beings operating at less than 100 per cent efficiency. What Americans call tort abuse may make us more careful. But this is not an undiluted good. It distorts professional judgment and increases insurance costs. We take the Acts of God, redistribute them and add 10 or 20 or 30 per cent.

There must be a limit to this redistribution. Individuals should be left with some responsibility for their actions, for the risks involved in the business of living. The principle of caveat emptor is a useful discipline. It balances caution against risk and pins responsibility for reaching that balance firmly on personal choice. Ask a judge to find the balance, topple the goddess Luck and set in her place the ambulance chaser and the insurance broker and you diminish individual responsibility and personal freedom. You make a safer world, but a meaner one.

Simon Jenkins

Regal fidget

PAINTING the Queen would be a daunting enough task for an artist of age and maturity, but for Antony Williams, 31, it has proved palette-snappingly hard.

It is not so much that Williams lacks the painterly skills. The problem is the Queen. She is both

a chatterbox and a fidget. Williams, 31, won a competition last year to paint an eminent person. Surprised to find his subject would be the Queen on her 70th birthday, he gulped and packed his brushes for a trip to the Palace. After the agreed six sittings, however, Williams has had to ask for more to make up for time lost through regal distractions.

First, he found that when he struggled up to London, the sittings would be arranged in different rooms with different light. Then there was the Queen. "She was very talkative, very animated," said Williams. "She initiated any conversation and I tended to react. But it was quite hard to keep up with her. She is incredibly well informed and it was a problem trying to concentrate on the painting."

Worse was her fidgeting. "I had to ask her private secretary for permission to ask her to sit still. He said yes, I was the boss, so I asked her very courteously. It didn't have much effect. She sat still for about two minutes and then something

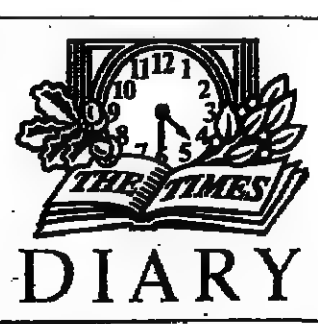
would catch her eye — Anne in the garden or something."

Thankfully, Williams is now on the home straight and will have his painting ready for its unveiling at the Mall Galleries next month. Phew.

For masculine charms, look no further than Boris Yeltsin. Though he seemed to be spinning a little out of control last year, pinching women's bottoms and dancing on an official walkabout with Helmut Kohl, he now has his rampant virility back in his kennel. On a recent state visit to Norway, on the way into an official lunch, he grabbed the arm of Queen Sonja, dressed in red, and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, in white, and with a huge grin said in Russian: "Raspberries and cream."

Open house

BISHOPSTHORPE Palace, the home of the Archbishop of York, is to be opened to the public for the first time. The current occupant, Dr David Hoyle, a bachelor, says he wants as many people as possible to share the beauty of his new digs, which he clearly finds slightly over-



whelming after the poky flat he had as Bishop of London.

The doors of the palace will be thrown open to pre-booked parties of between 10 and 50 at £2 a head, but not to individuals. The funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the building and nine acres of grounds, which feature a chapel dating back to 1241 and a Great Hall which was rebuilt in the 17th century. "It seemed a pity to keep it for one's own use," says Dr Hoyle. "I wanted to share it with other people."

Vegetable growers are employing unusual methods to produce a good crop. Peter Persson, a New Zealander who grows tomatoes hydroponically, uses discarded bras

as a source of cheap and effective support for his produce. He has even undertaken a colour evaluation and says that three days in a white bra followed by two days in a black one ripens the crop perfectly.

Short shrift

BEFORE delivering yesterday's John Smith Memorial Lecture, the Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown used his weekly column in Glasgow's *Daily Record* to fire a shot at the heroic Clare Short, one of the last members of the Shadow Cabinet to hold firm against Tony Blair's beige revolution.

Brown said he would not use the lecture to announce any tax policy because "Clare Short has a prior engagement and won't be in the audience. I'd want her to be one of the first to know." In view of the venom spat by Labour's high command at Miss Short for her statement last week that she could pay a bit more tax, Brown may not be joking.

Scene stealers

WHEN the Israeli missiles started to rain on southern Lebanon re-

cently, a BBC television crew found themselves in Beirut ready to produce a report on the supposed rising panic.

Finding nothing but calm on the streets, they climbed up to the roof of the Commodore hotel to film some general skyline shots. Arriving on the roof in their flak-jackets they found two British Mediterranean air hostesses sunbathing in their bikinis.

In the spirit of William Boot in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*, the director asked: "Would you mind moving? Having you two in the picture might ruin the credibility of our city in crisis story."

All about Yves

FIRST he supplied frocks to the Duchess of York for her recent white-wash week in *Hello!* magazine. Now Yves Saint Laurent has stepped one rung further down the celebrity scale to dress the football agent and incorrigible self-publicist, Eric Hall.

"They can spot a monster clothes horse when they see one," said Hall, a funny little fellow with a taste for fat cigars, from deep inside an aquamarine dinner-jacket.



Eric Hall: high fashion

"Eric has been signed to wear our clothes," explained a spokesman for the fashion house, which back in France dresses rather more soignée types such as Catherine Deneuve.

"He may not be the person you think of first when it comes to sartorial elegance, but our clothes appeal to a wide range of people."

P.H.S



"Cancelled our holidays at the last minute, old chap"



LONG TO REIGN

The nation is blessed by a resilient monarch, and monarchy

Tomorrow the Queen will be 70 and the nation will have rich cause to celebrate. In her 44 years as head of state she has performed with a grace and poise that have disarmed criticism. Anniversaries are occasions for reflection, and on this birthday there is good reason for the nation to take the longer view which the Queen, by virtue of experience and office, has always held.

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1897, Queen Victoria, ruler of one quarter of the globe, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. In her own lifetime criticism of the monarchy had grown, but she, and the Crown, outlived the critics. Since then Britain has endured decline. The nation has been overtaken economically, its rulers have seen authority seep away, its Empire has dwindled to a cluster of rocky outcrops. Throughout the social and economic upheaval this country has, with the sad exception of Northern Ireland, enjoyed civil peace and stability. The institution that has guaranteed that is the monarchy.

There is a strong mood today that the monarchy's survival depends on the Queen's. It is argued that respect for her personal dignity and gratitude for her obvious sense of duty is the only reason not to move to a more "modern" constitutional settlement, specifically a republic. Republicans, from the Marxist Tom Nairn to the free market radical Stephen Haseler, have argued that the monarchy mires Britain in nostalgia and inhibits necessary change. Republicans sense the widespread and justified distaste for the behaviour of some younger members of the Royal Family and exploit it to argue that when generations change, so should systems.

The tribute that even the most determined republicans pay the Queen is no more than her due. Although criticised for complicity with Macmillan in elevating Home to the premiership in 1963 and, more recently, for her readiness to intervene to keep Canada together, she has been more sure-footed than

her ministers. On both, indeed on all politically sensitive occasions of which we know, the Queen has underwritten rather than undermined the acts of elected politicians — as a figure herself above politics. No elected President could command the same authority. The Queen's wisdom and restraint have enhanced the reputation of monarchy but the health of the constitution depends on the survival of the institution, not the individual.

There are qualities specific to the monarchy, independent of the personality of the King or Queen, for which the nation might give thanks this weekend. The Queen, in the words of Vernon Bogdanor, "interprets the nation to itself". The monarchy is an emotionally satisfying focus for national loyalty. Far from impeding change, the monarchy and our settled constitutional order have made change easier to bear. Reforming Governments of the Left from Gladstone to Wilson have recognised how valuable stability at the top has been in helping to improve the lot of those at the bottom.

Across the globe the evidence suggests that constitutional continuity helps a people to cope with modernity's strains. The pain of losing an empire was assuaged in Britain by the Queen but it destroyed the French Fourth Republic. A monarch helped Spain to democratise itself. No advanced nation has a monarchy quite as traditional as Japan's, yet few have been as economically successful with such a scarcity of natural resources.

The nation should forget the Royal Family's recent sadnesses and focus on how well monarchy has served this country through a time of traumas. Over the next 12 months dealing with change will be the matter of fierce political competition. That our head of state should be above the partisan struggle is a blessing. There may be no better birthday wish for Her Majesty than that she, and the Throne she graces, should continue to enjoy long life.

AMBER ALERT

Britain grapples with new Chinese threats to Hong Kong

Malcolm Rifkind meets his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, today in The Hague at a critical juncture for Hong Kong. In the past few weeks, China has done everything possible to undermine the legitimacy of the Hong Kong Government and its democratically elected legislature. Its plans to create a "provisional legislature" to replace the existing elected Legislative Council are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the 1984 Sino-British Declaration and have no legal basis in China's own Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong. John Major's promise, when he was in Hong Kong last month, that if "there were any suggestion of a breach of the Joint Declaration, we would mobilise the international community and pursue every legal or other avenue open to us" is being put to an almost immediate test.

Mr Rifkind has condemned these decisions but in terms designed to stop just short of declaring China in breach of the 1984 treaty. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, points out that the provisional legislature has no "constitutional position", but adds carefully that it is up to China to justify its legality. The British approach is to treat this as a political rather than a legal problem, in the hope that Britain can convince China that if it goes ahead, it will inflict huge damage on its international standing as a law-abiding power, as well as undermining the prosperity of Hong Kong.

This tactic would have sounded more plausible a few months ago than it does now: China has demonstrated, in the Taiwan Strait, its readiness to put "sovereignty" far ahead of such material considerations. In addition, the Hong Kong preparatory committee dealing with the transition, chaired by Mr Qian himself, has now blocked this

avenue of escape by announcing that it intends to install the provisional legislature even before the handover. China's deliberate aim is to create two rival centres of power. Its officials have told civil servants that if they do not co-operate with it, they will be dismissed when China takes over.

Mr Patten has rightly refused to undermine the legally constituted legislature by according this body any form of recognition. But even if he does not, China's action would inescapably be in breach of the article of the Joint Declaration which binds China to co-operate with Britain as the sole governing authority prior to July 1, 1997. If Mr Rifkind does not say so firmly, and outline the legal steps which Britain would be compelled to take, the Chinese will treat Mr Major's pledge as mere howling in the wind.

The legality of the provisional legislature is being challenged not only by Hong Kong's democrats but by eminent lawyers whom China consulted when it was drafting the Basic Law and even by many of Peking's normally unquestioning supporters. Britain has a duty to be at least as robust as those who will live under Chinese sovereignty after June, 1997. Confidence in Hong Kong is weakening even in the hitherto unfurling business community. International concern is mounting: Merrill Lynch this week issued an "amber alert" on Hong Kong stocks, pointing to the "growing risk of politically induced fallout". China has shown itself immune to political persuasion, but sensitive to charges that it is failing to abide by its legal undertakings. Politically, this is the right time for Britain to make its stand on legal principle. Legally, now that China has made its intentions plain, Britain can only weaken its case by delaying its challenge.

BENEFIT TRANSFER

Labour proposes a better way of encouraging children to learn

Few things are more expensive in life than children. Feeding, clothing and, for some, educating the offspring takes a huge chunk out of family income. That is why, in almost every country, the tax system recognises the extra cost of raising children.

In Britain, what was once a child tax allowance was transformed in 1979 to a child benefit. The big advantage is that the money goes straight to the mother and is more likely to be spent on what it was intended to finance. The disadvantage, however, is that child benefit now looks like a State handout, part of the social security system, whereas in fact it represents a handing back of what used not to be taken away.

This is the best argument against turning what is now a universal benefit into a means-tested one. The cost of bringing up children should be recognised in all families. But after the age of 16, child benefit ceases to be universal and is paid only to the mothers of children who are still in full-time education. It is this money — a substantial £700 million — that Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, wants to see differently targeted.

At the moment, children who stay at school after the age of 16 are likely already to have come from more prosperous families. Mr Brown last night drew out some unsettling statistics. For instance, 80 per cent of the children of unskilled men leave school at 16, most with no qualifications at all. Three-quarters of them receive no further

training or education. It is clear, therefore, that the extension of child benefits beyond 16 years is not serving the purpose for which it was intended — encouraging poorer children to stay at school. Rather it is essentially giving tax revenues back to the middle class from whom they were collected — an outcome which Labour understandably regards with less approval than the Tories.

Mr Brown's proposal is that the £700 million saved by scrapping these child benefits should instead be spent on supporting those 16 to 18-year-olds who would benefit from full-time education but could not otherwise afford it. This would not just be socially desirable, it could also make economic sense in a world of shrinking demand for unskilled school-leavers. The question, however, is whether giving state handouts directly to young people would be the best way of improving their educational chances and recycling the money Mr Brown has quite reasonably decided to take from the middle class.

The details of the new education allowances, which remain scanty, will therefore be all-important if Labour's proposals are to make a truly convincing case. Nevertheless, this scheme seems to represent the kind of sensible and imaginative redirection of existing resources that Labour claims will be its hallmark in Government. Mr Brown would do well to continue thinking along these lines.

Issues at the heart of Labour policy

From Labour's Chief Whip

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's six articles on Labour (April 13-19) have been challenging and interesting and will have genuinely helped your readers to a better understanding of new Labour. I do not think the headline in his final piece, "Blair will win — and fail", accurately sums up his own conclusion. Mr Kaletsky is saying that Labour is a good bet in every sense and there are many who agree with him.

Your leader today, "Looking-glass Labour", says that readers will be surprised to know how much policy has actually been made by the Labour Party, but then argues that Tony Blair is keeping his party, as well as the public, in the dark. You cannot have it both ways.

On the minimum wage you argue that we should posit its maximum level. That would destroy the whole point of our policy, which is to consult with all sides of industry when in government, when the economic circumstances are clear.

On tax you argue that silence on tax will lead to further charges of a hidden agenda. Such charges will be baseless. We have said that we have no plans to raise taxes and that if we have proposals they will be disclosed before the election.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD DEWAR,
Chief Whip, Labour Party,
House of Commons,
April 19.

From the Chairman of the BMA

Sir, I was very interested to read Anatole Kaletsky's comment that the Government's health experiment has failed either in restoring public confidence or in reducing costs ("Pensions made to measure", April 17).

That such a respected commentator should reach such a conclusion is in marked contrast with statements made by the Secretary of State for Health on the fifth anniversary of the NHS "reforms" that the changes have been accepted as a permanent part of the landscape. I believe that to his credit Mr Dorrell is now tacitly acknowledging there are problems and is beginning to address them. But the Government as a whole is still reluctant to acknowledge the extent of the impending crisis.

At the BMA we have no doubt that the "reforms" must be reformed because of the inherent flaws in the system introduced five years ago. It seems to me that there is widespread alarm in the NHS, both among patients and among those who care for them, about the state of the service. Successive opinion polls support this view.

It surprises me that those commenting on successive by-election results sometimes ignore this fact.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. MACARA,
Chairman of Council,
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
April 18.

From Mr J. W. F. Young

Sir, For many of us the dreaded question is not "What will Labour do?" (Kaletsky's Labour, April 13) but "Who is going to pay the bill?"

Yours faithfully,
J. W. F. YOUNG,
36 Jessel House,
Judd Street, WC1,
April 19.

Hosepipe charges

From Mr G. J. Heyes

Sir, The statutory provision for reducing water charges in Section 76(4) of the Water Industry Act 1991, referred to by Mr P. C. Scott in his letter of April 15, applies only in cases where a water undertaker makes charges for the use of a hosepipe or similar apparatus and a hosepipe or sprinkler ban restricts non-domestic supplies for watering gardens or washing cars.

Many companies, such as this one, do not make separate charges for use of hosepipes or sprinklers, and in such situations no reduction or adjustments arise.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM J. HEYES
(Company Secretary and Solicitor),
Southern Water Services,
Southern House,
Yeoman Road,
Worthing, West Sussex,
April 17.

Opposition in Kenya

From Mr Kenneth Matiba

Sir, Sam Kiley's report, "Kenyan opposition self-destructs in violent clashes" (April 4), is riddled with gross inaccuracies. Biased reporting and unwarranted attacks against opposition politicians in the media are unfortunately all too common in Kenya, a country governed by an autocratic ruler who displays a flagrant disregard for freedom of the press. I would expect more reflective coverage from the UK press.

I would challenge Kiley's piece on two counts. Firstly, I do not support the expulsion of "whites and Asians" from Kenya. It is Daniel arap Moi, the President of Kenya, who has carried out a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing in our country through provoked tribal clashes and his divide-

Macmillan and the 1963 succession

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, In my judgment, Lord Home succeeded to the premiership in 1963 not through a "plot" on the part of Harold Macmillan (report, April 15) but as the favoured candidate of the Conservative Party. The Queen, therefore, did not "block Butler"; nor did her decision to appoint Home "damage the Crown".

In June 1963, four months before Harold Macmillan's resignation, the executive of the 1922 Committee told Butler that he would not be the favourite for the succession. Butler's papers in Trinity College, Cambridge, confirm this message, which was reiterated by the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Major John Morrison, in July 1963. At the same time Major Morrison told Home that, as he could not disclaim his title, he might well be a candidate for the leadership.

Since Macmillan was unable to foist his first choice for the succession, Lord Halsbury, upon the Conservative Party it is highly unlikely that a plot to impose Lord Home would have succeeded had Home not been favoured by the party.

Although Macmillan could not formally advise the Queen whom to appoint as his successor the memorandum which he presented to her apparently showed that, taking into account the views of the Cabinet, the parliamentary party in both Houses and the party in the country, Lord Home was the first choice.

It is implausible to believe that those senior members of the party who had taken soundings would have

allowed their views to be misrepresented by Macmillan. Iain Macleod, who resigned rather than serve under Home, admitted that the memorandum submitted by Macmillan was so conclusive that "it was unthinkable even to consider asking for a second opinion".

But in any case it was not for the Queen, by seeking such a second opinion, to appear to intervene in the internal affairs of the Conservative Party. If a preponderant element in the party wanted some candidate other than Home it was their responsibility to make their views known in unambiguous fashion. It was for the politicians, not for the Queen, to sort out the internal problems of the Conservative Party.

It is time, then, to scotch once and for all two myths — first, that Lord Home was imposed by Harold Macmillan on an unwilling Conservative Party, and second, that the Queen colluded in some way with Macmillan's plot.

The particular difficulty which occurred in 1963 will not, of course, occur again, since the Conservatives have used an electoral procedure to choose their leader since 1965. Even so, the 1963 crisis casts valuable light on how the Sovereign might carry out her responsibilities in the event of a hung Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
VERNON BOGDANOR
(Reader in Government),
Brasenose College,
Oxford,
April 15.

Duty of Israel to protect its citizens

From the Director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre

Sir, Sir Anthony Parsons et al (letter, April 18) engage in a circular argument when they suggest that Israel's maintenance of a security zone in South Lebanon is the cause of Hezbollah's rocket attacks on Israel's northern towns. Israelis argue — with greater justification, I believe — that they are compelled to maintain a buffer in order to protect their civilian population.

The facts of the matter are simple and accessible: so far, the Lebanese central Government has proved unwilling or unable to deploy its army in the south and ensure security along its border with Israel. It has also conspicuously declined to disarm the military wing of Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy which is pledged to the destruction of the State of Israel.

Israel has repeatedly stated that it has no territorial claims on Lebanon and, indeed, established the security zone as a *cordon sanitaire* in response to years of cross-border incursions which posed a constant threat to its civilian population in the north.

There is an unambiguous responsibility on the Government of Lebanon to control the use of force that is launched from its territory against a neighbouring sovereign state.

In the absence of that, the Government of Israel has an unequivocal duty to take the steps it deems necessary to protect its civilian population from the violent acts of an apparently uncontrolled terrorist group which operates from across its border.

The tragic deaths of Lebanese civilians on Thursday underscore the urgent need to secure the Israeli-Lebanese border and prevent Hezbollah from cynically and cruelly using Lebanese civilians as human shields when firing their Katyusha rockets at Israeli civilians.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN DAVIS, Director,
Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre,
21-22 Great Sutton Street, EC1,
April 19.

Libraries at risk

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Your correspondents who seek to save Great Smith Street library from closure (letter, April 17) may or may not know that when a similar fate hung over London's Belzite library in 1991 its readers sought a judicial review of Camden Council's decision to close it. They were granted leave for a hearing in the High Court, whereupon the council revoked its decision and the library remained open.

Camden's Mill Road library is one of four libraries recently closed by the council, following years of attrition of the kind described by your correspondents. This listed building has now been boarded up in its century year, despite the words "Free Library" built in brick into its handsome facade.

To assuage widespread protests by its users, the county and city authorities have been driven to suggest various milk-and-water community uses for the building. Friends of the library, with the precedent of Camden in mind, are nonetheless campaigning to reinstate its original purpose in full.

As your correspondents aptly demonstrate, libraries can no longer safely be left in the hands of local authorities who show themselves blind to their cultural, social and educational value. Central Government must indeed now take a hand in preserving these foundations of a civilised society.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK FORMAN,
25 Devonshire Road, Cambridge,
April 18.

and-rule strategy. What I have done, and will continue to do, is to attack corruption at the highest levels in government and call for dishonest and corrupt foreigners to be expelled from Kenya.

Kiley also claims that I have developed "a penchant for... outrageous statements". If it is outrageous to call for a national constitution conference to seek reforms which guarantee the independence of the judiciary, the press and Parliament and provide the necessary checks and balances on the

power of the President, then yes, I am outrageous.

If it is outrageous to work for the establishment of a genuine multi-party democracy in Kenya, built on the support of the people, then yes, I am outrageous. If it is outrageous to want to see an uncensored and independent press in Kenya, in stark contrast to the biased and misinformed reporting that exists today, then yes, I am outrageous.

I will continue to make such "outrageous" statements until we see real political reform in Kenya founded on genuine participatory democracy.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH MATIBA
(Chairman, Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili),
PO Box 48647,
Nairobi, Kenya,
April 12.

Steam heat

From Dr Malcolm McCoubrie

Sir, In your leading article of April 16, occasioned by the identification of Henry VIII's Turkish bath at Whitehall Palace, you rightly distinguish between the spiritual and sybaritic aspects of hot-water bathing. You might also have mentioned another: the supposed healing effects of dissolved inorganic salts.

A good number of Henry VIII's subjects thought it worth their while to visit Bath: one wonders if his advisers were aware of the growing popularity of the many London mineral springs and were persuaded by his physicians to place his Whitehall bath away from the springs.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MCCOUBRIE
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Department of Primary Care,
Tooting, SW17,
April 17.

Spirit and substance

From the Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College

Sir, Mr John Pearman suggests (letter, April 17) that "Most present-day youngsters are influenced more by spiritually-minded human beings engaged in the real world than by priests". For which epithet, pray, do priests not qualify?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD,
Chaplain,
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge,
April 17.

power of the President, then yes, I am outrageous.

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KENNETH MATIBA
(Chairman, Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili),
PO Box 48647,
Nairobi, Kenya,
April 12.

Destruction of art — a legacy lost

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, Both Mr Smallwood and Dr Dunn (letters, April 16) attribute the destruction of English art, which they seek to minimise or justify, to the Reformation. However, in one important area at least, stained glass, the main "holocaust of destruction", occurred a century later.

Canterbury's glass was shattered in 1642 by a mob led by a fanatical parson who himself climbed the city ladder to smash windows with a pike. Most of the glass at Worcester was destroyed by the Earl of Essex's troops the same year. Most of the churches at Suffolk and Cambridgeshire were despoiled by the notorious iconoclast William Dowsing in 1642-44.

Peterborough's magnificent glass was destroyed by Puritan soldiers under Cromwell in 1643, including a famed sequence of windows in the cloister showing Old Testament scenes on one side, New Testament on another, the Church founders on a third, and all the Kings of England on the fourth. Cromwell himself, spotting a tiny crucifix overlooked in a high window, personally fetched a ladder and destroyed it.

In the same year, at Winchester, "those windows which they could not reach with their swords and muskets they broke to pieces by throwing at them the bones of kings, queens, bishops, confessors and saints" which they had disinterred; at Norwich Cathedral "Lord, what work was here! What clattering of glasses." The 15th-century windows of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, were detonated in 1648.

The Renaissance windows of Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster, and the glass in the Hampton Court chapel were replaced by plain glass in 1644-45. Even at York in 1644 the Roundheads deliberately fired on the Minster so that cannonballs crashed through the windows and "bounced about from pillar to pillar", while during the siege of Lichfield in 1646 "two thousand shot of great ordnance and fifteen hundred grenades" hit the cathedral, destroying the glass.

In this way perhaps the greatest legacy of English medieval art was largely consigned to oblivion, much of it wantonly, contrary to orders, and with the slenderest of ideological justification.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINEY,
35 The Albemarle,
Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex,
April 16.

From Mr Neil Sydney

Sir, The mindless iconoclasts portrayed by Richard Cork in "The Resurrection" (Magazine, April 6) were not, I suggest, motivated by a desire to destroy art. Rather they saw it, correctly, as idolatry.

The people, common and noble, bowed down to and gave gifts to the statues that filled their churches. The reforming zeal of the iconoclasts was directed by the Bible, which states not only "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" but more importantly "Thou shalt not bow down thyself before them, nor serve them." The Protestants remembered the Golden Calf, and the Lord's vengeance, and sought to do right by what they believed was God's Word.

In those days, statues were not made for the appreciation of art critics, but were part of the everyday lives which the reformers of the day regarded as superstitious.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL SYDNEY,
50 Hillside Gardens,
Barnet, Hertfordshire,
April 18.

Still on the rails

From the Director of Public Affairs, British Railways Board

Sir, The BR "double arrow" logo is not disappearing from stations and tickets as your report of April 15, "Rush for the BR logo now departing", suggests.

Ownership of the logo is to be transferred to the Secretary of State for Transport, who already uses it as a prescribed traffic sign. It is to be available under licence for use by all railway businesses.

Essentially it will be used to denote "railways" generally — for example, showing on maps as well as traffic signs where stations are.

The licence will be non-exclusive and royalty-free. At the same time, British Rail will be allowed to continue to use it as its corporate logo for at least five years.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. A. EVANS,
Director of Public Affairs,
British Railways Board,
Euston House,
24 Eversholt Street, NW,
April 16.

Unexpected drawback

From Mr Richard Meacock

Sir, I really must protest that since South West Trains have been privatised my daily 9.40am to Richmond has been on time.

For 30 years this was eight minutes late: the result is many miss it.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD MEACOCK,
Ivy Cottage, Staines Road,
Wraysbury, Buckinghamshire,
April 18.

Weekend Money letters, page 36

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

CANON PETER GILLINGHAM

**Canon Peter
Gillingham, LVO,
Chaplain to the Queen,
1952-84, died on April 4
aged 81. He was born on
May 3, 1914.**



In 1954 Siddiqui was sent to London to learn journalism, and, after working on a number of local papers, he joined *The Guardian* — a paper whose liberal division he always claimed to cherish — as a sub-editor. While working night shifts, he pursued his studies part-time, starting with O levels and

In 1972 he turned his back on journalism to found the Muslim Institute, based in Bloomsbury and funded by subscriptions from members and donations from Muslims all over the world. Its aim, he explained, was to counteract the way in which Western political thought had penetrated that of Islam by working to disengage the two at an intellectual level. He himself became director. For some years he lived quietly, like

The 1979 Iranian revolution was the turning point in Siddiqui's life. It established for the first time the sort of state that his theories advocated — a newly self-confident version of Islam, contemptuous of everything Western. Siddiqui became a radical Muslim fundamentalist calling for a special relationship between British Muslims and Iran. As a frequent visitor to Tehran, he became a highly regarded guest of the Government.

In 1989 Siddiqui found notoriety in

Kalim Siddiqui is survived by his wife, Suraiya, whom he married in 1960, and by a son and a daughter. Another son died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of four.

He served his title at Tonbridge, going on from there to a second curacy at St George's, Oakdale, Poole, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. He then became a most distinguished naval chaplain. Dispatched to the famous "O" Class destroyer flotilla he found himself on the "Murmansk" run of convoys to Russia, perhaps the



On demobilisation, a spell as chaplain to Blundell's School, Tiverton, preceded six years spent as chaplain at the Royal Chapel in Windsor Great Park. His time there covered the death of King George VI, with the consequent period of bereavement for the Royal Family, during which his presence and support were invaluable. He once delivered the entire series of sermons in the Chapel Royal on the significance of the emblems used in the Coronation. For his services to the Royal Household he was appointed MVO in 1955, later transferred to LVO.

Having taken part in the famous race and crewed with friends on racing yachts, he was able to be his own captain aboard the cabin cruiser *Enid Mary* in which he explored at length the navigable waters of East Anglia and instructed his "amateur" crew in the complexities of boat control. It was an environment in which his outstanding qualities of leadership and humour could be given full expression. With the additional lure of the golf course and the local fund of classical and choral musical activity, in which he took a full part, life remained energetic and busy almost to the end of his life.

He married Diana (née Hood) in 1947. She survives him with their four children, the eldest of whom is rector of St Clement's, Oxford.

JOY NEWTON

JOY NEWTON'S most famous dancing role was the cameo part of the Ballad Singer in *The Rake's Progress*, which Minette Vatou had created for her at the ballet's premiere in 1935. Made up as a raddled old woman (she was only 22 at the time), Newton came out during the scene where the Rake enjoys himself among "ladies of the town" and entertained the party with a drunken and disreputable song. Although her voice was represented by the orchestra, she was required to mouth suggestive words, reputedly written by Constant Lambert. Lip-reading balletomanes today still sing along under their breath, the verses having been

Also, she endured; as a pupil of Ninette de Valois' grandly named Academy of Choreographic Art from about 1927, she was one of the six young women who became the initial members of the opera ballet at the Old Vic theatre two years later, mak-

Scarcely had she taken up her new responsibilities when in May 1940 the company was sent on a goodwill tour to The Netherlands, then still neutral. After British wartime

Joy Newton was one of seven group leaders appointed by de Valois to take a roll call of their own detachment at every halt and departure, to ensure that nobody was left behind amid all the confusion and mainly night-time travel. Eventually they all arrived safely home, but without mos-

In an essay published in a pamphlet about *The Sleeping Beauty* in 1946, Joy Newton described her duties: devising rehearsal and class schedules to fit in with the dancers' other commitments; conducting rehearsals when the choreographer was not present, and attending all others to learn the choreography.

After her husband's death she ran a small antique shop in Kent. Although both of them were long retired, she and her successor as ballet mistress at Covent Garden, Jean Bidells, reconstructed De Valois' ballet *Job* for Birmingham Royal Ballet to mark the work's 60th anniversary in 1991. She remained active despite her years, and her death was blessedly sudden, while working in her garden. She leaves no survivors.



**Joy Newton in Frederick Ashton's
Apparitions, 1937**

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

GAMBLING AT OSTEND. SENTENCE ON A CLUB PROPRIETOR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
BRUSSELS, APRIL
The Bruges Correctional Tribunal, which corresponds roughly to our quarter sessions, gave judgment yesterday in a case of the greatest importance, namely, the trial of a gambler who had been accustomed to find at Ostend the gambling facilities which form for many the attraction of that typical Continental water place, but to all who regard it as an agreeable alternative to the Casino de Monte Carlo. The defendant, who was recently prosecuted for infringements of the law against games of chance, had been found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and three fines of 40 francs with respect to each of the years 1935, 1936 and 1937. He now appeared before the court with two additional months' imprisonment, and his three additional month's imprisonment.

Each club has been confiscated.

ON THIS DAY
April 20, 1920

Infringements of the gambling regulations of Ostend resulted in the keeper of the Ostend Club falling foul of the law. The town profited largely by income derived from the gaming tables

on the probable appeal, gambling will be suspended at Ostend for the second time during recent years. Honest *bourgeois*, who can enjoy the seaside without adventurous aid, will welcome this, for there is no doubt that of the million visitors during the season, a large proportion were of a class which considered the place unsuitable for young people. On the other hand, the town profited largely by the income derived from the tables, and some municipal witnesses went so far as to say that, without gambling, Ostend would be ruined. This seems an extreme view, but it may be doubted whether the decision will commend itself to those even higher circles which regarded the development of Ostend as a proper object for the expenditure of the revenue received from the

Congo rubber forests. It will be remembered that among the works intended by the Sovereign-Founder to be carried out by the Fondation de la Couronne were "the creation at Ostend of the museum promised to the town, the establishment of a great covered hall intended for agricultural, horse, and cattle shows, the joining, by an artificial canal, the estuary of the Ruysele with the quarters of the Galleries and Hippodrome, in such a way as to make Ostend, a few hours from London, a bathing city unique in the world." Now that the Fondation de la Couronne is suppressed, Belgium is obliged upon to spend over £81,000 on these particular works. The British will, and many Belgians would prefer to spend the money otherwise.

ELECTROBUS TRIP TO BRIGHTON. - An electrobus, of the type which is now being used on certain routes in London, having been ordered for a local service at Brighton, was the subject yesterday of an interesting experimental trip to demonstrate that this type of omnibus is capable of carrying from London to Brighton a full complement of passengers with only one chain of electricity. The omnibus made a rapid run via Streatham to Redhill, where a halt had to be made for some time owing to the overheating of one of the axles. The omnibus, when restarted, went satisfactorily until a point some little distance from Crawley, when overheating again occurred, and a wheel was taken off and adjusted. After this the omnibus slowly proceeded to Crawley . . .

